

In AIDS-Torn Africa, Desperate Choices

UN Suggestion to Stop Breast-Feeding Leaves Mothers Confused and Alarmed

By Michael Specter
New York Times Service

KAKULU, Uganda — This village is really just a muddy patch of ground in the tall trees near where the Nile flows out of Lake Victoria. The men work on coffee plantations. The women bear children, fetch water from the well about a kilometer away and cultivate cassava, potatoes and bananas.

There is no running water, no electricity, no telephone. When the long rains come each year, they wash out the dirt road for weeks at a time. This is — and has always been — a place where people who reach the age of 50 are old, and those who have seen a doctor or swallowed a pill are rare.

The basic rules of public health are clear in Kakulu: Only drink water from the well, not from the polluted Nile; and breastfeeding is the best way to nourish an infant.

At least those were the rules until a few weeks ago, when the United Nations, struggling desperately to find a way to cope with Africa's AIDS epidemic, took a giant step toward reversing them.

After long deliberation, UN AIDS officials announced that women infected with HIV should consider feeding formula instead of breast milk to their babies.

Even discussing such a fundamental shift in public health policy has been agonizing for people who once staged protests in the United States and Western Europe, warning that using infant formula in the Third World, where dirty water is often lethal, would kill thousands of children each year.

Switching to formula would affect the basic behavior of millions of women, and in theory at least, it makes sense. Three million children in Africa have died from AIDS since

the epidemic began, and last year alone there were more than 600,000 new cases among babies, many of whom received the virus from the milk in their mother's breast. Had they been drinking uncontaminated formula instead, or had their mothers taken a short course of AZT to protect them just before delivery, more than a third might have been saved.

But here, where theory quickly fades into the harsh reality of the jungle, the math never seems to add up the right way. In African villages there is no debate between breast and bottle and no talk of using a drug like AZT.

Instead, there has been a simple discussion about who will live and who will die. Scarce funds make drug treatments that have become routine in the United States almost impossible to contemplate here. So people infected with the virus die, and usually they die quickly. That makes prevention the only hope for this continent, where 30 million people have already been infected and 10 million have died.

Feeding formula to babies whose mothers have HIV could save tens of thousands of children each year. So could providing a short course of AZT, which prevents the AIDS virus from multiplying rapidly in cells, to a woman in her final stages of pregnancy. It may sound simple. But nothing about AIDS here ever is.

"I would never be able to feed my baby with formula," said Margaret Birungi Nannyongoi, a slightly overwhelmed 20-year-old woman who sat on the mud floor of her home, nursing her three-day-old child, Dorothy Nalule.

Dorothy is her third daughter. The first died and the second is a listless, underweight two-year-old with flat

See AIDS, Page 7

Clinton Keeps Out of Public Eye

Focus Back on Lewinsky as Starr Checks President's Testimony

By Brian Knowlton
International Herald Tribune

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration lowered its profile Wednesday as it weighed reaction to the president's admission of an inappropriate relationship with Monica Lewinsky and anxiously awaited her second appearance before the grand jury on Thursday.

Mr. Clinton celebrated his 52d birthday quietly Wednesday on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. It was the first full day of a vacation on the resort island where he had flown the day before with his wife, Hillary, and his daughter, Chelsea.

Aides said the president had rejected their advice that he make a few public appearances Wednesday, saying he told them that his priority was to "get right with my family." A small birthday celebration was planned.

Administration officials were noticeably absent from the television interview shows, and most legislators, home for the congressional recess, had no new comment on the president's dramatic admission Monday or his surprisingly sharp attacks on the office of the special counsel, Kenneth Starr.

All were keenly aware that when Ms. Lewinsky returns before the grand jury, her testimony may help shape a report to Congress by Mr. Starr.

The independent counsel's staff was said to be examining Mr. Clinton's grand-jury testimony of Monday line by line to determine whether he might have committed perjury. Mr. Starr is also looking for evidence of obstruction of justice or subornation of perjury.

Among the few leading figures who did speak out Wednesday, the House Republican whip, Tom DeLay of Texas, renewed a call for Mr. Clinton's resignation.

"This president has lost his moral authority in the world as well as at home," Mr. DeLay said on CNN. "The honorable thing to do is, Bill Clinton should resign."

But the call has been joined by only a handful of other Republicans, including former Vice President Dan Quayle, and a single Democratic congressman, Paul Hefner of Pennsylvania. And Mr. DeLay was at a loss to explain opinion polls showing that a strong majority of Americans, two-thirds or more, want the Lewinsky matter to end and Mr. Clinton to finish out his term.

Presidential supporters quietly took heart in those numbers. But the anger of many Republicans, and the strongly expressed disappointment of some Democrats — along with the imminence of Mr. Starr's report, expected shortly after the House reconvenes on

See CLINTON, Page 7

Clinton Wrote the Speech

- Mr. Clinton's words were his, but aides urged him to drop criticism of Mr. Starr. Page 6.
- What major politicians are saying in reaction to the president's speech. Page 6.
- Asians conclude that an insincere president disgraced himself. Page 7.

Clinton and Starr Leave 2 Offices Badly Weakened

Presidency and Prosecutor's Role Are Unlikely Ever to Be the Same

By Jill Abramson
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Far from signaling the beginning of the end of the Monica Lewinsky investigation, the testimony and speech by President Bill Clinton may only have ratcheted up the tensions between him and the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

The combative tone of the president's speech, in which he continued to attack Mr. Starr as overzealous and partisan, was one sign of continuing rancor. Another was the readiness of the special prosecutor to press on with his investigation, calling Richard Morris, the former Clinton adviser, before the grand jury Tuesday and Monica Lewinsky on Thursday.

"I'm reminded of two heavyweights who are determined to go 15 rounds," said Stanley Brand, a Democratic lawyer who served as general counsel to the House of Representatives. "Whichever wins, they are both going to be terribly bruised at the end of the fight. And the two institutions will never be the same."

In the short term, several lawyers said, the battle between the president and the special prosecutor could become even uglier, a prospect no one relishes. One key reason would be the questions the president did not answer, though it is not clear just what they were.

The independent counsel might decide that the president's answers during his unprecedented grand jury testimony Monday were insufficient, and Mr. Starr could move to reissue the subpoena that he withdrew after the president agreed to testify.

The White House could claim that such a subpoena is unconstitutional and force another legal confrontation with Mr. Starr lasting many more weeks.

Whatever the immediate outcome, lawyers interviewed about the long-term effects of Mr. Starr's seven-month-long sex and perjury investigation said that both institutions at the center of the legal storm, the presidency and the office of the independent counsel, had been grievously harmed.

"Both have been seriously hurt," said C. Boyden Gray, who served as White House counsel to President George Bush. Mr. Gray said he doubted that the independent counsel statute would be reauthorized when it is set to be renewed in two years. He also said that the

NEWS ANALYSIS

FBI's Search for Blast Clues Focuses on Nairobi Hotel

By James C. McKinley Jr.
New York Times Service

NAIROBI — A low-cost hotel in a run-down neighborhood of this capital has become a focus of the FBI investigation into the bombing at the U.S. Embassy in Kenya on Aug. 7.

On Tuesday morning, a dozen American agents supported by six Kenyan detectives scaled off the Hilltop Lodge, a three-story inn popular with Muslim businessmen, and for two hours they combed two rooms on the second floor for forensic evidence.

The agents dusted for fingerprints, searched

the rooms and seized the hotel's logbook and copies of bills before leaving, hotel employees said. The FBI also took the manager of the hotel, James Ng'anga, into custody for questioning. He was still being held Wednesday night, his family said.

On Wednesday afternoon, the investigators returned to the rooms to take pictures and make videotapes, a contractor at the hotel said.

U.S. law-enforcement officials declined to comment Wednesday on what they had found in the hotel or why it had been searched. "The investigation is proceeding in a logical manner, and no further comment will be made at this

time," FBI officials said in a written statement.

An unconfirmed report in The Nation newspaper, quoting anonymous police officials, claimed that a man arrested in Pakistan last week in connection with the bombing had told investigators the car bomb that destroyed the embassy was built in the two rooms.

The Nairobi blast killed 247 people and injured thousands. A simultaneous explosion outside the U.S. Embassy in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, took another 10 lives.

The raid on the hotel came after FBI and local police interrogated Mohammed Sadiq Odeh, 34, who was flown to Kenya on Aug. 14, after

confessing to the Pakistani police that he had played a major role in planning the attack.

On the day of the bombings, he was arrested in Karachi on charges that he was carrying a forged passport, just after he arrived on a commercial flight from Nairobi.

The Nation report, which could not be verified, maintained that Mr. Odeh had told investigators that he and three accomplices had assembled the bomb at the hotel between Aug. 3 and Aug. 6.

Mr. Odeh has been linked to Osama bin

See RAID, Page 7

Ulster Town, Mourning, Scorns Cease-Fire Called by Bombers

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

OMAGH, Northern Ireland — The grieving, angry people of this town in central Ulster scorned the news Wednesday that a cease-fire had been called by the Real IRA, the Roman Catholic splinter group that killed 28 people and injured 220 here on Saturday.

On Wednesday afternoon, on a bridge over the River Strule a few minutes' walk from

Market Street, people came to stare silently at several hundred bouquets and at British soldiers in battle dress holding automatic rifles at the ready, guarding the area.

Both Catholics and Protestants in this predominantly Catholic town were bitterly cynical about the cease-fire.

"Their warnings were false, so their cease-fire is false," said a 40-year-old man who declined to give his name for fear of terrorist reprisal.

"They'll carry out their next atrocity under some other name," he said. "I think the government should track them to the end of the Earth, then push them off — after they are brought here to see these flowers."

The Real IRA said on Tuesday afternoon that it had placed the bomb. It said, incredibly to most people here, that it had not intended to harm anyone, only to damage property in "our ongoing war against the Brits."

On Tuesday night, the Real IRA issued a

statement to a Belfast newspaper saying it was suspending its "military operations" while it considered "our future direction."

The Real IRA is thought to comprise about 100 dissidents from the Irish Republican Army. They broke with the IRA over the peace agreement that was approved in May by large margins in referendums in Northern Ireland and in the Irish Republic.

See ULSTER, Page 7

Airlines Jazz Up In-Flight Entertainment

By Laurence Zuckerman
New York Times Service

Jon Fjalstad recently boarded a Cathay Pacific Airways 747 for the 12-hour flight from Hong Kong to Vancouver. As he settled into his business-class seat facing a video screen that normally serves up a choice of eight movies, Mr. Fjalstad was told that the system was working for other passengers but his was on the blink.

"It is almost better that you don't have it at all than that you have it and it doesn't work," he later said. "Especially if you see some people who have it working and yours isn't working."

Virtually all the world's top airlines now offer sophisticated systems that fea-



Shawn Goldenberg

ture a video screen at every seat and a choice of as many as 21 movies plus computer games, shopping and even gambling. But the systems are expensive to install — as much as \$4.5 million a plane — and notoriously undependable.

The airlines judge they have little choice but to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on them to attract and retain customers like Mr. Fjalstad.

"Why are the airlines crazy enough to invest in technology that is never 100 percent reliable and extremely expensive?" asked Karl Laasner, the head of in-flight entertainment at Swissair, one

of the few airlines that feature systems that not only provide video choice but also allow viewers to control playback.

"If you want the image of being the world's best, you have to keep up."

Road-warrior like Mr. Fjalstad, 29, an international business consultant based in Minneapolis who flew 150,000 miles (240,000 kilometers) last year, consider many factors when they are deciding which airline to fly. Increasingly, they are thinking about which carrier has the best selection of movies and television programs to make their long flights more bearable.

A few years ago, passengers trying to while away long hours in the air were lucky to be able to see a single movie and to listen to some music. Now, 80 percent of the electronics on a new wide-body jet are in the passenger cabin, not the cockpit, and there are more lines of code in the entertainment software than in the programs flying the plane.

Airlines are expected to spend \$6 billion over the next five years to equip 4,800 planes with a new generation of systems that will deliver what vendors first promised five years ago: audio and video on demand, a system that enables passengers to start, stop, rewind and fast-forward any one of scores of films or television programs at will.

Industry executives predict that by early in the next decade, the systems

See ALOFT, Page 15

AGENDA

Neighbors Promise Congo Aid As Rebels Close In on Capital

The government of Zimbabwe said it was sending aircraft, weapons and other support for the embattled Congolese government of President Laurent Kabila as rebels approached the capital Wednesday.

Mr. Kabila also won pledges of military support from Kenya and Angola against the two-week rebellion, led by ethnic Tutsi from eastern Congo and reportedly backed by Rwanda and Uganda. It was the first fruit of Mr. Kabila's intense diplomatic efforts to secure outside support. Page 2.

Russia: From Hero to Pariah

Only a few years ago, the post-Communist Russian financial officials found themselves courted in the international credit markets. What a difference just a few years can make. Moscow's rule devaluation and moratorium Monday on debt repayments has darkened the outlook for any new loans to Russia. Page 11.

Books Page 6.
Crossword Page 18.
Opinion Pages 8-9.
Sports Pages 18-19.
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The Dollar			
New York	Wednesday 4 P.M.	previous close	
DM	1.7361	1.8018	
Yen	144.005	144.85	
FF	6.0265	6.039	
Pound	1.623	1.6166	
Dollars per pound			

The Dow			
	Wednesday close	percent change	
	-21.37	8,693.28	-0.25%
		S&P 500	
	-3.14	1,098.06	-0.29%
		Nasdaq	
	-12.43	1,842.69	-0.67%

Sex, Ties, Videotape: Did President Send Her a Signal on TV?

By Don Van Natta Jr. and James Bennet
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — When President Bill Clinton strode into the White House Rose Garden on Aug. 6, his jazzi gold and navy necktie stood out sharply against his white shirt and sent a jolt through certain lawyers around town.

They were not clotheshorses struck by a rare Washington fashion statement. They were prosecutors in the office of the independent counsel Kenneth Starr, wondering whether Mr. Clinton might have dressed to obstruct justice — by sending a secret signal to Monica Lewinsky as she testified before the grand jury.

Ms. Lewinsky, the former intern at the center of the investigation into sex and lies at the White House, had said during her debriefings with prosecutors in recent weeks that she had given Mr. Clinton the Ermenegildo Zegna tie on his 50th birthday, in August 1996.

According to what Ms. Lewinsky told a friend, Ms. Lewinsky told the president that because they would not be able to meet every day, "when I see you wearing this tie I'll know that I am close to your heart."

On the day of her testimony, Mr. Clinton was investigating against handguns in a televised ceremony. Prosecutors apparently wondered, Was the tie a sign, a plea for solidarity?

See TIE, Page 6

TV Plans for Pope's Death / Where Will Dan Rather Stand?

Wanted: Vantage Points for a Puff of Smoke

By Alessandra Stanley
New York Times Service

ROME — Death, unlike taxes, is still certain in Italy. Even popes must someday die. And when the pope is as towering a figure as John Paul II, there is one other certainty: Every major television news organization will someday need a room with a view.

More precisely, American networks will need a large terrace with a good view of St. Peter's Basilica. CBS News recently outbid rivals and signed a contract with the owner of the Atlantic Star hotel for exclusive use of its 450-square-meter (5,000-square-foot) terrace overlooking the Vatican for live stand-ups by its anchor, Dan Rather, and others.

The timing, obviously, is unknown. The price, says the owner, Benito Menocucci, is about \$180,000 for however long the news event lasts. The fee also covers use of the terrace during the year 2000 Jubilee. CBS News officials said the figure was incorrect, but declined to give a precise one.

"I am relieved it's over," Mr. Menocucci said of the drawn-out negotiations. "It was all very embarrassing. For the past year and a half, not a day went by without some TV person calling about the terrace. First the Japanese, then the Germans, then the Americans."

He said he felt a special bond to the Pope, whom he met at a papal audience two years ago. "But we had to reach a decision," he said. "Unfortunately death is inevitable for all of us."

Vatican officials view such talk as disrespectful to the 79-year-old pontiff, who, despite reports that he is suffering from Parkinson's disease, nevertheless keeps up an astonishingly full and vigorous schedule.

"It is over great to talk about death," said a spokesman, the Reverend Cirio Benedetti. "I understand the exigencies of news reporters, but it is not a very pleasant subject for those of us who work with His Holiness."

When dealing with the Holy See, television producers politely refer to their contingency plans as preparation for the millennium — which the Pope has made clear he has every intention of celebrating.

But his health could fail before 2000. Network executives say they cannot afford to neglect preparing for so momentous an event.

"When it happens, it will be a huge story affecting millions and millions of people," said John Paxson, the London bureau chief of CBS News, who is coordinating contingency Vatican coverage. "Your ability to pre-organize has a lot to do with how well you cover the story."



Francesca Mecucci, left, and her sister Roberta enjoying the view of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome from the terrace of Hotel Atlantic Star. CBS News has paid for the rights to use that view for its coverage of the 2000 Holy City jubilee — and the death of Pope John Paul II.

As the unexpected and relentlessly broadcast funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, most recently revealed, television coverage has changed enormously since John Paul II was elected in 1978.

Then, the United States had only three networks, and little live coverage. Modern technology now allows even small stations and network affiliates to cover events as they happen in many parts of the world. In addition to CNN, many networks also have 24-hour cable news shows.

Cardinals from 62 countries will be among the contenders to replace John Paul II, and virtually all of those countries will want their own networks to cover the conclave. The American networks have been seeking positions that allow them to film the white smoke drifting out of the Sistine Chapel that signals that a new pope has been elected.

Discreetly, but feverishly, American, British, Japanese and many other broadcasters have been wheeling and dealing and winning and dining in search for an edge on the competition — staking out camera positions, plotting feature pieces, signing up expert commentators and making the right friends in high places.

NBC News, for example, hired as its Rome producer the son of the Vatican official who is the gatekeeper for

all photography and electronic media. ABC News has reportedly won exclusive rights to the Hilton, perched on a hill that overlooks Vatican City, though neither the network nor the hotel management would confirm it.

CNN producers also declined to reveal their planned location. Rome is awash with rumors that the Atlanta-based news organization is negotiating an arrangement to work out of a church-owned property with an excellent view of the Vatican.

"The best locations are the private houses, but most of them are owned by the Vatican," one network producer in Rome said. "But as long as the Pope is alive, the Vatican is not going to countenance any deals between foreign barbarians and themselves."

The Italian press, however, is fascinated by foreign barbarians. The Roman daily newspaper *Il Messaggero* headlined a recent article about the terrace wars with the words, "The Pope: Heaven Can Wait, the Networks Cannot."

Many other countries take a pragmatic view of preparing for the death of a national figure. The BBC, for example, conducts a technical rehearsal of its coverage of the Queen Mother's funeral every six weeks. But in superstitious Italy so blunt an approach is considered by many as bad luck or bad form.

"It is so indicative to write about such things," said Walter Cantini, manager of the Hotel Columbus, three short blocks from the Vatican, which owns the hotel.

Mr. Cantini pointed out that his hotel, on Via della Conciliazione, has no terrace, but he said that he would not allow any advance negotiations for its use even if it did.

"Nobody at our hotel is hoping to profit from such an event," he said indignantly.

YET EVEN the Vatican has quietly undertaken some advance preparations. In past conclaves, the 100 or so cardinals were jammed into makeshift and uncomfortable quarters scattered across the Apostolic Palace. Next time, they will reside inside the Vatican walls in the recently completed, multi-story St. Martha's Residence several hundred yards from the Sistine Chapel, where the deliberations take place.

Media accommodations are more difficult to plan, and that is one reason most television producers seem to be praying for the Pope to live well into the 21st century. The Vatican is converting dozens of church buildings into hostels in anticipation of the jubilee, when millions of pilgrims are planning to visit the Holy City. But the buildings won't be ready much before 1999.

Kabila Secures Pledges Of Foreign Military Aid As Rebels Near Capital

By Nori Onishi
New York Times Service

KINSHASA, Congo — As the rebels trying to topple Laurent Kabila from power rapidly closed in on the capital Wednesday, the Congolese president scrambled to secure foreign military support to repel a final assault.

The government of Zimbabwe said it was immediately sending aircraft, weapons and other support for the embattled Congolese government.

On a day that exposed existing and emerging rivalries in the region, Mr. Kabila also won pledges of military support from Kenya and Angola against the two-week rebellion led by ethnic Tutsi from eastern Congo, and reportedly backed by Rwanda and Uganda.

The announcement was the first real fruit of intense efforts by Mr. Kabila, who has become known for his lack of diplomatic skills, to obtain outside support for his weakened and disorganized army. It followed contradictory statements made by governments whose support he had sought.

After a two-day meeting in Harare of defense ministers from the 14-nation Southern African Development Community, the region's main political and economic organization, Zimbabwe announced that the group would supply arms and men to Mr. Kabila's forces.

"We are going to respond positively in a manner that will help the government of President Kabila to restore peace and stability," Robert Mugabe, the president of Zimbabwe, said. In a separate statement, Mr. Mugabe's defense minister, Mwenemahachi, told the BBC that Zimbabwe would immediately begin sending airplanes and other assistance to the Congo.

Late Wednesday, the mounting regional support for Mr. Kabila brought about a seeming concession from rebel leaders, who told journalists at a news conference in the eastern Congolese city of Goma that the rebellion would consider negotiations with the government. Hitherto, talks with Mr. Kabila had been ruled out.

But, in a statement that revealed a rift in the regional organization, South Africa, the head of the regional group and a sometimes diplomatic rival of Zimbabwe, declared Wednesday that assistance would not happen yet.

"Our attitude is clear," said Nelson Mandela, the South African president. "We are not going to make the situation worse by sending a military force. We are for peace."

The rebels control the eastern swath of the Congo and much of the territory southwest of Kinshasa, a critical region for transportation and power to the cap-

ital. It was unclear Wednesday night how significant the help from individual countries would be and whether it would arrive soon enough to stop the rebels, who tore through military defense lines southwest of here and deepened the disarray among government officials.

The depth of confusion in Mr. Kabila's government was underscored by a senior official who, in a private briefing with reporters, initially tried to present a less bleak picture of the situation and then, with little prodding, began using the past tense to assess Mr. Kabila's legacy.

Pointing at a map of the country bearing its former name of Zaire, the official at first said that the government defense line lay in the city of Songololo, about 130 miles (210 kilometers) southwest of here; then, after moving his finger eastward about five times, he agreed that the line was most likely in Kisantu, a mere 75 miles from this city.

"It's a funny kind of war," he said, finally. He added, "If Kinshasa falls, it's absolutely the end." The official said he was pessimistic about the possibility that Mr. Kabila could effectively continue the war from his southern redoubt of Lubumbashi, where he was staying.

The fact that the government desperately lacks military resources also arose indirectly during a television interview that Didier Mumengeti, the information minister, held Tuesday night with some usually friendly local reporters. Mr. Mumengeti said that the government had been dropping bombs on rebel areas in the southwest when one of the reporters innocently asked: "But Mr. Minister, we don't have an air force."

In this two-week civil war, government officials have used the local newspapers and television stations to present a rosy, and often misleading, picture of the military situation to the 5 million residents of Kinshasa. The propaganda has worked well, especially in fueling nationalist sentiments among the Congolese who openly express hatred of the ethnic Tutsi from eastern Congo and the Rwandan Tutsi, the two groups leading the rebellion.

But it was safe to conclude that the message in Mr. Mumengeti's televised interview failed to reach the ears of the city's residents. On Monday, the rebels recaptured the huge Inga hydroelectric dam in Inga, about 200 miles from here on the Congo River; they shut off the power supply to this region, leaving Kinshasa and Brazzaville, in the Congo Republic across the river, in the dark.

The lack of power added to the city's edginess. Gunfire could be heard throughout the night.

UN Envoy Fails to Shift Iraq Stance

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BAGHDAD — The United Nations special envoy to Iraq left Baghdad on Wednesday for New York after failing to get the Iraqis to rescind a decision halting cooperation with UN weapons inspectors.

Prakash Shah, special envoy of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, said the standoff between Iraq and the inspectors could still be solved through dialogue, though the Baghdad government was standing by its decision to suspend cooperation with the arms inspectors, announced on Aug. 5. "I still think that lots of discussions and bilateral negotiations can take place," Mr. Shah said before leaving Baghdad.

Iraq says it will not resume cooperation with inspectors of the UN Special Commission, or Unscorn, unless the commission is restructured and its headquarters moved from New York to Geneva or Vienna, to reduce what is said to be U.S. influence over them. Iraq also wants an end to the sweeping UN sanctions imposed on it after the invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Asked about the tense situation between Iraq and the United Nations, Mr. Shah said: "I wouldn't say it is a crisis."

Baghdad has repeatedly accused Unscorn and its chairman of being guided by the United States to prolong the disarmament process, which must be completed be-

fore the council can lift the sanctions.

On Tuesday, the Security Council sent letters to the UN agencies in charge of weapons and nuclear inspections backing their mandates to carry out their work but giving no guidance on how to deal with Iraq's defiance.

When asked why the council had not threatened Iraq with ultimatums, such as threats of military action, the council president, Danilo Turk of Slovenia, said the time was not right for that strong a message.

"I don't think that anyone in the council has suggested that we have reached a point at which consideration of severe consequences would be necessary," he said.

The state-run newspaper *Al Iraq* on Wednesday accused Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, of spying on Iraq for the United States.

The Baghdad government says all its weapons of mass destruction have been accounted for and that sanctions, including a ban on oil sales, should have been lifted long ago. Mr. Butler says there are still gaps in Unscorn's knowledge, especially about Iraq's biological weapons program. Mr. Annan appointed Mr. Shah to improve communication between him and the Iraqi government shortly after the secretary-general defused the last major standoff in February. (Reuters, AP)

TRAVEL UPDATE

Athens Police Arrest Taxi Gouger

ATHENS (AP) — The police here arrested a taxi driver Wednesday for having allegedly charged an Australian tourist more than 25 times the normal price for a ride from the airport, the authorities reported.

Giorgos Mitsis, the driver, confessed to charging Kelly Jane Smith, 23, a total of 38,500 drachmas (\$127) for a trip that should have cost no more than 1,500 drachmas for the short ride, the police said.

She paid the amount demanded by the driver but became suspicious and reported the incident to the police, identifying the driver from photographs.

Northwest Sparks Airfare Increases

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Only days after Northwest Airlines blocked its rivals' attempts to raise leisure-trip fares, the company increased advance purchase fares 4 percent, sparking matching increases from other carriers.

Northwest raised its 14-day and 21-day advance purchase and sale fares Monday night, according to a Northwest spokesman, Jon Austin.

The move came as Northwest continued contract negotiations with the Air Line Pilots Association as an Aug. 28 strike deadline drew nearer. Northwest also is in contract negotiations with its other five unions.

WEATHER

Europe

Forecast for Friday through Sunday, as provided by AccuWeather.

City	Today	Low	High
London	18/22	12/18	20/26
Amsterdam	16/20	10/16	20/26
Brussels	16/20	10/16	20/26
Frankfurt	16/20	10/16	20/26
Geneva	16/20	10/16	20/26
Madrid	20/24	14/10	26/32
Rome	20/24	14/10	26/32
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
Helsinki	14/18	8/14	20/26
Reykjavik	14/18	8/14	20/26
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
Helsinki	14/18	8/14	20/26
Reykjavik	14/18	8/14	20/26
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
Helsinki	14/18	8/14	20/26
Reykjavik	14/18	8/14	20/26
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
Helsinki	14/18	8/14	20/26
Reykjavik	14/18	8/14	20/26
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
Helsinki	14/18	8/14	20/26
Reykjavik	14/18	8/14	20/26
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
Helsinki	14/18	8/14	20/26
Reykjavik	14/18	8/14	20/26
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
Helsinki	14/18	8/14	20/26
Reykjavik	14/18	8/14	20/26
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
Helsinki	14/18	8/14	20/26
Reykjavik	14/18	8/14	20/26
Stockholm	14/18	8/14	20/26
Oslo	14/18	8/14	20/26
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THE AMERICAS

Flights of Fancy: Middle-Aged Pilots Play Top Gun With Soviet-Era Jets

By Tracie Rozhon
New York Times Service

LOCK HAVEN, Pennsylvania — With the Bald Eagle Ridge looming behind his baseball cap, Lee Gilbert, a bespectacled 55-year-old in a T-shirt and baggy khaki pants, drove his little red lawn tractor past farm buildings into a corrugated steel hangar and rolled out a 1960s-looking Czech L-39.

A surplus fighter jet painted in camouflage colors, it was emblazoned with "warrior" in Russian and stenciled pictures of fighter jets — and proudly bore the restored red star of the Soviet Union on its tail.

Minutes later, he piloted the roaring fighter up over the mountains and began a series of breathtaking rolls, dips and dives: 3,000 feet (920 meters) down in five seconds, to a height he jokingly called "normal straining altitude."

Mr. Gilbert, who made his money selling foam insulation, owns his own hangar and five airplanes. But the fighter jet is the only one that lifts off at 180 mph (290 kph), which, as he puts it, "makes your hair stand on end."

Since the end of the Cold War, more and more Americans have been rushing to buy surplus Russian MiGs, Czech L-39s, Polish Laks and Yugoslav Sokos as private playthings.

Starting with a handful of planes, the fad has caught on, and now there are hundreds of fighter jets owned by civilians. The Classic Jet Airplane Association lists 423 on its rolls. That is a minuscule percentage of the country's 186,000 private planes, but in 1989, when the group was formed, there were

10 in the country.

In 1993, the Federal Aviation Administration, unprepared for the growing number of surplus military jets coming in from former Soviet bloc countries, stopped issuing the permits that let them fly here, a moratorium that lasted two years.

Now, fighter jets owned by civilians are allowed in the United States but with a passel of rules: no flying more than 600 miles from home without the aviation agency's permission, at least 1,000 hours of flight time, regular maintenance and agency inspections — and no live guns.

These military jets, which often sport real, but nonfunctioning, guns, are not just owned by former navy and air force pilots. Dr. W.B. Johnson, a cardiologist from Missouri who owns a Yugoslav Soko Galeb G2A and flew it to the Oshkosh Airshow in Wisconsin earlier this month, said perhaps half are owned by "ordinary guys" who pay an average of \$50,000 to \$400,000 for the fighters. An L-39 like Mr. Gilbert's costs about \$325,000.

Most of the owners are businessmen, said Dr. Johnson, a burly man wearing a dark green cotton zippered flight suit with an embroidered Soko patch sewn on his sleeve. "There's all kinds: There's a fellow who built a business in janitorial services in Utah; others who distribute widgets and make odd things. Then there's a few physicians, a few lawyers," he said. One is a Harley-Davidson dealer from Savannah, Georgia.

Esper Petersen, 48, a building contractor from Chicago with no military

flying experience, termed his fellow jet owners "a pretty interesting group of overachievers; they're usually pretty well-off and, at our get-togethers, what you get is a bunch of bosses, everybody bossing everybody else around."

When they're not running their businesses, these middle-aged men — their average age is about 55 and no one can name any women who are jet owners — like to fly high, fast and noisy. While the newest MiG-29s, only slightly used, fly at two and a half times the speed of sound, the older jets, flown in Vietnam, Afghanistan and Czechoslovakia, fly close to the speed of sound.

That's close enough for a thrill, especially in a stripped-down military cockpit peering over a gun sight, doing a triple roll.

These guys have fun. Mr. Petersen, a bachelor, said flying the jets is "better than anything — except sex."

Allen Smith, vice president of a pharmaceuticals company who owns another L-39, disagrees. "He's wrong — he hasn't flown enough — it's better than sex."

Ron Whit, a shampoo bottle who just bought his L-39 last Thursday, said he bought it to "crank and bank" — and to advertise: He'll paint the sides with the name of a new product, Race Glaze, and fly the jet to airshows.

Some of the pilots say they see the two-seater jets, used as trainers for the various Soviet forces, as a way to educate the young about flying.

As Ian Johnson, the doctor's 21-year-old son and an aspiring jet pilot, said:

"We grew up with jets."

The public may not understand that the sight of a fighter jet bearing red stars and Russian words does not exactly make the Pentagon tremble.

Real military jets carry a "friend or foe" warning system that has been disabled in the surplus jets, said Jack Harrington, an aviation lawyer who is also president of the Warbirds of America, a group dedicated to the preservation of fighting aircraft. In addition, the jets file flight plans and maintain routine contact with air controllers.

"The airplane community knows

Because of it, they are often flown to airshows aboard cargo aircraft.

There the pilots all seem to know each other, standing in groups on the tarmac near their planes, laughing. About 20 of the jets — most with their Russian warnings intact — showed up in Oshkosh.

The most fun for the pilots may well be the mock dogfights they get into on weekends.

"When I first got my fighter jet, I headed up to the Wisconsin border," Mr. Petersen said. "There's a lot of P-51s up there, and I went after them. We got into a dogfight and they shot me down." Not to worry. "Ob, oot really shot down — I have a gun sight hooked to a camera — I get 'em in the cross hairs and snap a picture, for proof."

Although they don't come with fax machine ports, microwave ovens and CD players the way the new corporate jets do, the military jets offer the following advantage (depending, of course, on how you look at it): In the corporate jets, you can't feel the enormous pull of gravity that make most earthlings very, very sick to their stomachs.

In the MiGs and Sokos, the pilot-owners revel in the fact they can take up to 8 "G's" — a gravitational force equal to eight times one's body weight.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union, its former republics "were desperate for cold, hard cash," said Doug Schultz, a fighter pilot and jet owner who recently tried — and failed — to bring some of the newest surplus planes into this coun-

try. Mr. Schultz, who said he ran into "political cobwebs and dead-ends," bought his planes from an importer in Burlington, Vermont.

The U.S. government does not sell its surplus fighter jets to its citizens. They chop them up, said Carol Simpson, a spokeswoman for the Defense Department's Reutilization and Marketing Service. To find one — and there are some — you would have to buy them from another country or from a dealer who did.

To find a fighter jet these days — from any country — Mr. Schultz said, potential top gunners might subscribe to Trade-A-Plane, a yellow-paged classified paper that comes out three times a month (800-337-5263; \$42 a year).

Generally, the importers pay about half of the retail price of the plane, or even less. But they have to pay the duty, reassemble the pieces (it's taken apart for shipping), and remove any obsolete navigation equipment. They may also paint it — although some of the owners prefer to leave the planes with their original, if faded, Soviet warnings and decals.

When they decided to call a halt to jet imports in 1993, the Federal Aviation Agency was "worried a lot of millionaire playboys would be hurting themselves around and falling into schoolyards," said Mr. Schultz. Both the pilots and federal officials say that has not happened with the former Soviet aircraft.

"These guys treat them the way they do classic cars," said Terry Allen, of the agency's certification service in Washington. "They preserve them; they practically worship them."

AMERICAN TOPICS

'Behaved' Mount St. Helens
Now a Major U.S. Tourist Site

Eighteen years after a cataclysmic eruption that killed 1,300 people (400 more) off its top, the volcano in the state of Washington has calmed down enough to become one of the most popular tourist destinations.

Fifty-seven people died in the spectacular May 18, 1980, eruption. The bulging north flank of the mountain collapsed, creating a huge landslide that swept through a lake, pushing up a wall of water estimated at 600 to 800 feet high. The explosion veined searing gases, which, mixed with ash and pulverized rock, leveled everything for miles. Twenty-seven bridges and 200 homes were damaged or destroyed.

Now, those awesome, fearsome, coupled with a spectacular view that includes Mount Rainier to the north, draw 3 million to 4 million visitors a year. Mount St. Helens has become the most climbed volcano in North America, with 13,000 people a year hiking to its rim, second in the world only to Mount Fuji in Japan.

It holds that distinction despite the allowed quota of only 100 hikers per day, and despite an increase in earthquakes rumbling through its flanks. Such quakes have increased from 60 a month last winter to more than 450 in July.

Scientists say, however, that no catastrophic explosion is imminent.

Hikers who make it to the top of what the "Cowlitz Indians" named "Las-We-Lat-Klah," or "Person From Whom Smoke Comes," say the effort is worth it. "I never thought I'd make it," Ted Dixon of Michigan, perched atop the rim, told a San Francisco Examiner reporter. "If I had one day left to live, this would be the place I would want to be."

Short Takes

Some Montana ranchers, tired of los-

ing lambs to marauding coyotes, have found a novel solution — the llama. While dogs remain the most common guard animals, and ranchers have experimented with donkeys, kangaroos and ostriches, the llama appears to be a natural. Long trained as pack animals, they are highly territorial. Ranchers place them in the pasture with sheep, and nature does the rest: If a coyote enters the pasture, the llama herds the sheep together, stands between meal and predator, and scares the coyote off. "They don't take any special training," Linda Stewart, a sheep rancher, told The Bozeman Daily Chronicle. "They just are naturally curious, and with virtually anything that enters the pasture, he's right there checking it out. It drives coyotes nuts." A guard llama, which typically costs \$800 to \$1,000, is also seen as an ecologically correct choice, preferable to the use of poison or traps.

Experiments in Texas with another exotic animal, the emu, have proven less successful. Hundreds of farmers and ranchers began raising the ostrich-like bird for its meat in the 1980s and early 1990s. Then the bottom dropped out of the market. In 1993, emu chicks, which had been selling for as high as \$3,000 a half-dozen, brought only 15 cents. Some farmers, cutting their losses, let loose hundreds of the flightless creatures. Since then, emu sightings have become Texas's answer to Bigfoot; some Texans have been injured in encounters with high-kicking emus.

Traffic circles may be old hat in parts of Europe, but Americans cannot seem to catch on. Massachusetts and New Jersey have "roundabouts" but have stopped building them amid complaints from drivers. Maryland is still building them — traffic engineers say they cost less than traffic signals to maintain, force drivers to slower speed and reduce the severity of accidents — but drivers remain leery. "I don't like it," Mary Talbot told The Baltimore Sun. "People are used to squares," meaning right-angle intersections. "They don't know anything about circles."

Brian Knowlton

Mexico Police Get Their Man

Manhunt Sought Kidnapper Who Cut Off Victims' Ears

By Anthony DePalma
New York Times Service

MEXICO CITY — A nine-month manhunt has ended with the capture of a brazen and violent kidnapper who used scissors to cut off his victims' ears and who had said he would never be captured alive, the authorities announced Tuesday.

Attorney General Jorge Madrazo said Tuesday that a group of federal and state police officers had used legal wiretaps and information gained from plea bargains with jailed gang members to capture the fugitive, Daniel Arizmendi Lopez.

The officials said Mr. Arizmendi had carried out at least 18 kidnappings since 1996, often with the help of current and former police officials.

Mr. Arizmendi, 40, con-

fessed to four murders Tuesday, officials said.

He was caught here Monday when he arrived at a meeting of associates, where the police were waiting for him, said the attorney general of the State of Mexico, Jorge Reyes Santana. Mr. Arizmendi pulled up in a Volkswagen, alone, and offered no resistance, Mr. Reyes Santana said.

The authorities said 16 other people, including 6 youths, had also been arrested in connection with the kidnappings.

The authorities said Mr. Arizmendi's operations were complicated, involving up to 12 members of his organization. They stopped a potential victim's car by blocking its way with up to three trucks, crashing into security vehicles that executives sometimes use for protection and shooting

bodyguards who tried to resist, the authorities said.

Hostages were usually taken to a safe house, where they were stripped and isolated, the officials said, adding that at some point the victim was told that it was time for "some therapy," and an ear was severed and sent to the victim's family.

Terrified executives demanded police action, and one official said an order had come from President Ernesto Zedillo to catch Mr. Arizmendi using whatever means necessary.

After his arrest, Mr. Arizmendi was charged in the kidnapping and slaying of one victim, Raul Nieto del Rio. Mr. Madrazo said that for unknown reasons the kidnappers almost immediately shot and killed him and still called the family to demand a \$15 million ransom.



Daniel Arizmendi Lopez after his arrest in Mexico.

Aline Mosby, a Trailblazing Reporter, Dies at 76

New York Times Service

Aline Mosby, 76, a former correspondent for United Press International who reported from Hollywood, Paris, Beijing and points between for more than 50 years, died Aug. 7 in Escondido, California.

She moved from Paris to a retirement community in California this year.

The cause of death was a cerebral hemorrhage, The Associated Press reported from San Diego.

Ms. Mosby, a native of Missoula, Montana, and a graduate of the University of Montana, joined United Press, the forerunner of UPI, in Seattle in 1943. She retired from the agency in 1984 but continued to write free-lance articles.

She is believed to have been the first woman assigned by a major news agency to cover the Kremlin and, later, Beijing.

While she was stationed in Moscow in 1959, she interviewed a self-exiled Lee Harvey Oswald, who was then the up-and-coming assassin of President John F. Kennedy.

also interviewed Gary Powers, the downed U-2 pilot, Ms. Mosby recounted tales of her work in Moscow in "The View From No. 13 People's Street" (Random House, 1962).

One report quoted a United Press historian, Dick Harman, who remembered, "On one occasion Miss Mosby was enticed to meet two Russians at a restaurant. The Russians, who were KGB, put a 'mickie' in her drink. She stumbled into the street and into a ditch, where a KGB photographer was waiting to take her picture, probably in order to get her expelled." But the expulsion was averted by oaks agency officials.

Earlier in her career, she reported Hollywood gossip. Her Hollywood column was credited with helping to propel Marilyn Monroe to stardom.

Dorothy West, 91, Of Harlem Renaissance

New York Times Service
Dorothy West, 91, "the Kid" of the Harlem Renaissance circle of writers and artists in the 1920s who was rediscovered seven decades

later when her novel "The Wedding" was published and became a best-seller, died Sunday in Boston.

She was a longtime resident of Oak Bluffs, Martha's Vineyard.

Ms. West, who began writing stories at age 7 in her family's elegant four-story house in Boston, was not yet 20 in 1926 when her short story "The Typewriter" won a prize from the Urban League's Opportunity magazine.

Encouraged, she moved to Harlem in New York City and joined the poets, novelists, musicians and other artists forging a cultural renaissance there. Long before her death, she was frequently described as the last surviving member of that group.

"We thought we were going to be the greatest writers in the world," she told The Los Angeles Times in 1995. "We were all young and we fell in love with each other. We all had the same ambitions: writers and painters and so forth. We were free. We had an innocence that nobody can have now."

Ms. West's first novel, "The Living Is Easy," was not published until 1948, when the Harlem Renaissance had long faded. Her second, "The Wedding," about the aspirations and anxieties of black people living in Martha's Vineyard, appeared in 1955.

Ms. West's stories and novels used brisk narratives, an eye for detail and wit to explore the aspirations of well-to-do blacks and the interplay of race, class and intraracial tensions in America. Her work was not overtly political, tending to more lyrical depictions of vanity, longing, love and misunderstanding.

Critics praised her storytelling and her pioneering descriptions of conflict within the black middle class.

Otto Wichterle, 84, Inventor of Soft Lenses

New York Times Service
Otto Wichterle, 84, a Czechoslovak chemist who in

1961 used an Erector set and a photograph to produce the world's first soft contact lenses, died Tuesday at his summer home in Srdarsko, a Moravian village in the Czech Republic.

The consequences of his kitchen-table experimentation changed the way millions of people see and look.

"Before his discovery, there were, of course, contact lenses," said Dr. Dwight Cavanaugh, a professor of ophthalmology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. "But they were made of glass or hard plastic. They were difficult to make and to fit and probably no more than 10,000 or 20,000 were being used. As a result of what Dr. Wichterle achieved, a billion-dollar industry came into being. Today there are about 30 million people in the United States and 100 million people around the world who use soft lenses."

Ms. West's stories and novels used brisk narratives, an eye for detail and wit to explore the aspirations of well-to-do blacks and the interplay of race, class and intraracial tensions in America. Her work was not overtly political, tending to more lyrical depictions of vanity, longing, love and misunderstanding.

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Otto Wichterle, 84, a Czechoslovak chemist who in

Economic Benefits Trickle Down to Single Black Mothers

By Steven A. Holmes
New York Times Service

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina — Three years ago, Nancy Wright was struggling to hold body and soul and two sons together on the \$237 she received in her monthly welfare check, supplemented by \$187 worth of food stamps.

These days, Ms. Wright, 35, is earning almost \$1,400 a month as a supervisor at a fiberglass plant. Though hardly affluent, she has bought a car, and she just returned with her sons from a weeklong vacation in New York and Atlantic City, New Jersey — the first time she had left North Carolina.

"I'm able to buy them clothes and school supplies," she said, rattling off the benefits of her newfound prosperity. "I can take them out to get something to eat or go to the movies. I've accomplished a whole lot since I started working."

Ms. Wright's brightening fortunes are part of a little-noticed phenomenon among single black female heads of households. Long at the bottom of the American economic scale, these women have seen their incomes rise sharply in recent years, pushed by a strong economy, a tight labor market, increases in the minimum wage, more stringent welfare eligibility requirements and government training programs.

In 1996, the latest year for which complete Census Bureau data are available, the median income for this group was \$15,530, a jump of more than 21 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars from the \$12,765 the women brought home in 1993.

Labor Department figures for single black female heads of families, a slightly different category because it includes only women with children, show a similar increase, to \$16,256 in 1996 from \$13,489 in 1993.

Incomes for these women are rising faster than those for nearly any other demographic group, in part because they are starting from such a low base. The median income for white households (including families and those living alone) is \$47,023. And a median income of \$15,000 still leaves single black female heads of households squarely in the ranks of the working poor. But the increases come after two decades when their incomes barely increased or even declined. From 1969 to 1993, their median income fell by more than 4 percent.

The improvement in incomes among single black mothers is a sign of how much the benefits of the economic recovery are cascading down to groups on lower rungs of the economic ladder.

"They're doing much better than they have in years," said Edward Montgomery, chief economist at the Labor Department.

One reason is the recent increase in the minimum wage, which rose to \$4.75 from \$4.25 in 1996 and rose again to \$5.15 last September.

Economists say most single black mothers are hourly workers, so the increase in the minimum wage helped lift their incomes.

But even without an increase in the minimum wage, these women would still be benefiting from the strong economy, which is especially robust in Charlotte, where the unemployment rate is less than 3 percent.

With such a strong economy, Labor Department data show that incomes at the bottom of the wage scale have begun to rise even more sharply than those at the top, starting to chip away at decades of rising income inequality.

"It's too early to call it a trend in terms of reversing income inequality," Labor Secretary Alexis Herman said. "But there is no question we are heading in a positive direction."

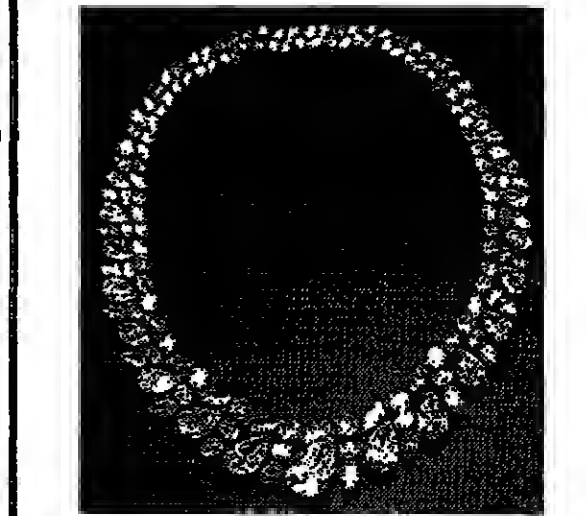
In addition to being pulled into the job market by rising wages, many of these women are being pushed there by efforts to revamp the welfare system. In 1995 North Carolina received waivers from the Clinton administration allowing it to require welfare beneficiaries to undergo job training. A year later, the state received permission both to set a two-year time limit for a family to receive cash assistance and to decline to raise welfare payments if a recipient had another child 10 months after going on the rolls.

Since the changes, welfare rolls in North Carolina have shrunk to 65,873 families in June from 113,485 in June 1995. Because about 65 percent of the families on welfare in the state are black, in 1995 and this year, and because about 60,000 people who have left the rolls have given jobs, single black mothers have seen significant changes in their economic fortunes.

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By Barbara Crossette
New York Times Service

The Economic and Social Council voted last week to ask the World Court for an opinion.



Swiss Judge Calls on Pakistan to Take Action

Judge Devānd said the formal demand to charge Miss Bhutto, now the opposition leader in Pakistan, con-

Miss Bbntto's lawyer in Geneva, Dominique Poncet, said that it was not clear what would happen once the demand for the indictment reached Pakistan.

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

"That is a best-case scenario," said Mark Kirk, general counsel of the U.S.

North Korea has also recently been accused of providing Iran with missile technology that aided Tehran's long-range missile program. Peter Brookes, another committee staff member, said the North Korea government volunteered to end its program of missile exports if the United States would pay it \$500 million

While the United States has also lobbied North Korea to embrace market reforms, its food aid has continued. This year it will top 220,000 metric tons, the most of any country in the world, compared to the EU's 86,000 metric tons.

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

troops of Chiang Kai-shek and later Japanese invaders gave birth to a strategy of People's War, which envisaged arming a whole society against an aggressor. That strategy was discarded in the

The second problem is that placing demobilized soldiers in civilian jobs is getting more difficult. The Chinese economy

crank out trucks instead of tanks, refrigerators instead of howitzers. Training also has fallen behind as regiments concentrate on profits rather than preparedness, he said.

High Toll in India

For the Record

Burma's military government was accused by the UN's International Labor Organization of widespread forced labor "with total disregard for human dignity." (Reuters).

LUCKNOW, India — More than 200 people, many of them Hindu pilgrims, were feared dead on Wednesday after a huge landslide hit a

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EUROPE

Ex-East German Communists Aim to Scale Daunting Electoral Hurdle

By John Tagliabue

New York Times Service

POTSDAM, Germany — The red velvet curtain parted and Gregor Gysi rode out on a baby elephant, circling the ring to the thunderous applause of 800 or so supporters jammed into a sweltering circus tent.

With national elections six weeks off, things are going so poorly for Mr. Gysi, 50, the head of the former East German Communist Party, that the party has turned to a circus to draw attention. Although the party has been successful locally in East German states, Mr. Gysi said that the national vote is the biggest test for the party since 1990, when it renamed itself the Party of Democratic Socialism.

A party qualifies for seats in Parliament by winning at least 5 percent of the vote nationwide, and recent surveys put Mr. Gysi's party at about 4.4 per-

cent. By a quirk in election rules, a party that wins three head-to-head races is allowed its full proportional share of seats, and that is the route the party took into Parliament in 1994.

Under German electoral law, voters cast one vote for a candidate and a second for a party.

But if they are to solidify their position in national politics, Mr. Gysi said in an interview, the Democratic Socialists must clear the 5 percent hurdle. "Any less than that would not be a success," he said.

The crowd at the circus was a mix of longtime Communists and others dissatisfied with some aspect of German unification.

Mr. Gysi said the party's roots in the east make it an advocate of eastern concerns, like battling unemployment and challenging as discriminatory the government's refusal to recognize professional qualifications from the former

East Germany. When Germany was unified eight years ago, many analysts expected the former Communists to fade quickly.

But they have grown to considerable strength, playing a role in government in several eastern states. Yet as Germany slowly knits together, the party's roots in the east are weakening. "People are moving away, new people moving in, and there's a growing right-wing potential," Mr. Gysi said.

In Western Germany, where the party is still identified with communism, Mr. Gysi says he would be happy to double the vote the party received in 1994 — to 600,000, from 300,000. But with 60 million people in Western Germany, he acknowledges that those numbers are just a drop in the bucket. The big hope remains in the east, in strongholds in Berlin and cities of Brandenburg state, like Potsdam. Yet even here, Mr. Gysi is running hard.

Far-right parties are drawing a protest vote and cutting into Democratic Socialist strength, and Mr. Gysi has come under fire from his own left wing. When the party sent a letter recently to the former German president, Richard von Weizsäcker, acknowledging Communist responsibility for injustices in the former East Germany, the leader of the party's left wing, Sarah Wagenknecht, denounced it as a groveling gesture that would cost the party votes.

Moreover, recent surveys show that while Chancellor Helmut Kohl of the Christian Democratic Union still trails his Social Democratic challenger, Gerhard Schröder, the gap is closing. Thus, some of Mr. Gysi's followers, fearful that Mr. Schröder's left-oriented Social Democrats could lose their first chance in 16 years to lead the government, appear set to split the ballots provided by German electoral law, casting one for Mr. Gysi's candidates, and a

second for Mr. Schröder's Social Democrats.

In the former East Germany, Mr. Gysi carved out a niche for himself as a maverick lawyer, defending dissidents and heading a Communist Party committee that spearheaded a belated reform in 1989, just before the Berlin Wall fell. But in some ways, his notoriety before unification makes him a complication for a party seeking to free itself of the old Communist taint.

Witty and acerbic, Mr. Gysi is credited with leading the party's transformation to a democratic force, but he has earned himself many enemies. He has been accused repeatedly of informing for the Stasi, the old Communist secret police.

He vehemently rejects those charges, but a parliamentary committee concluded recently that the charges were true.

Mr. Gysi also happens to be one of the

most prominent Jews in German politics, and the polemics take on particular poignancy at a time when reunited Germany is grappling with issues of national identity and guilt.

He said he believes Mr. Schröder's preferred outcome would be a "grand coalition" with the Christian Democrats. If that failed, and Mr. Schröder accepted the environmental Green Party as a partner in a "red-green" coalition, then the Democratic Socialists would support such a government issue by issue, he said.

That, of course, could broaden the former Communists' role in national politics. It is the only German party that opposes the European single currency, the euro, not because it believes it to be a bad idea, but because unification of European labor law is not keeping step. It also opposes German participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions.

BRIEFLY

Albania Seeks a Meeting With Yugoslavs on Attack

12 Shells From Kosovo Send Residents Fleeing

The Associated Press

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia — The Albanian government called Wednesday for an urgent meeting with Yugoslav authorities after Serbian mortar shells were fired into Albania from rebellious Kosovo Province.

The shelling, which the Albanians said lasted for two hours on Tuesday, prompted local officials on the Albanian side of the frontier to evacuate children and the elderly from border communities.

In Tirana, the Albanian capital, an Interior Ministry official said that the government was seeking an urgent meeting of a joint Yugoslav-Albanian border commission to discuss security problems.

The official said 15 shells exploded about 1.5 kilometers (nearly a mile) inside Albanian territory.

There were no reports of casualties, the Albanian official said. But the incident raised fears that the conflict in Kosovo, in which ethnic Albanian rebels are fighting to win independence for their province, which is part of Serbia, could spread through the southern Balkans region.

About 1,700 troops from the United States and 13 other countries are conducting a military exercise in the Albanian capital to demonstrate NATO's commitment to containing the Kosovo crisis.

On the diplomatic front, U.S. envoys

are pressing efforts to arrange direct talks between the Serbian government and a Kosovo Albanian delegation formed last week to bring the conflict to an end and chart the future of the province.

Kosovo is an ancient territory of Serbia, the main republic of the two remaining in Federal Yugoslavia. In recent decades, ethnic Albanians grew to become dominant in Kosovo.

On Tuesday, the Kosovo Albanians spurned an offer by the Serbs to begin talks immediately, saying Serbian attacks must cease and that tens of thousands of ethnic Albanian refugees must be allowed to return home.

The European Union's human rights commissioner, Emma Bonino, was touring refugee areas of Kosovo on Wednesday for a first-hand assessment of the crisis.

On Tuesday, a special U.S. envoy on the Kosovo crisis, Christopher Hill, who has been meeting with Yugoslav and ethnic Albanian leaders, reiterated the U.S. view that both sides should keep negotiating.

Complicating the diplomacy is the fact that the leading ethnic Albanian politician, Ibrahim Rugova, faces opposition from within the Kosovo Albanian community because he favors negotiations to resolve the crisis.

The Kosovo Liberation Army has rejected Mr. Rugova's moderation in favor of a hardline, Adem Demtshi.



DIGGING FOR ANSWERS — Members of an international team studying graves of miners killed by the Spanish flu in Norway 80 years ago. The bodies will be exhumed to study the nature of the epidemic.

2 Spanish Forests Assaulted by Insects

MADRID — An army of insects is munching its way through two forests near Madrid, threatening to destroy 1,000 hectares (2,500 acres) of pine trees, ecologists say.

The culprit, bugs known as pine sawflies, are feeding on pine needles in the Navacerrada and Cercedilla areas, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) north-west of the capital.

The insects get their names from saw-like pincers with which females bore into plant tissue to lay their eggs.

Environmentalists with the Madrid regional government say that in the worst-hit spots, the insects have stripped trees bare. (AP)

New Bill on Slander Angers Greek Media

ATHENS — Greek media expressed outrage Wednesday over a proposal to impose a minimum two-year prison term for radio and television journalists broadcasting "slandering and insulting matter."

Under the legislation, proposed Tuesday by Justice Minister Evangelos Yannopoulos, news directors who allow the material to be broadcast would also face charges.

While slander and libel laws covering the media already exist, the proposed amendment would expand the definition. Insulting a politician or a member of the public on the air would become a criminal offense. (AP)

U.K. Nurses Warned Not to Insult Patients

LONDON (AP) — A regulatory body plans to send letters to about 640,000 nurses throughout Britain warning that they will face disciplinary action if they use offensive jargon describing patients in their notes.

Some nurses have been caught writing abbreviations such as FLK, which stands for "Funny Looking Kid," or BUNDY, shorthand for "But Unfortunately Not Dead Yet," according to the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting.

Other examples include GOK, for "God Only Knows," and PIN, for "Pain In the Neck."

"It might be funny to you, but it's not very professional," said Su Smallman of the Central Council's pediatric nursing division. (AP)

Poles and Israelis To Exhume Graves

JERUSALEM — Israeli and Polish forensic institutes will cooperate to exhumate, identify and fly to Israel the remains of Jews buried in Poland during and before the Nazi Holocaust, an Israeli official said Wednesday.

"This gives families who want the graves of their loved ones to be in Israel the opportunity to bring their bones to the country," said Yehuda Hiss, head of the Abu Kabir forensic institute. He said the agreement would apply only to Jews who know the precise burial location of their relatives. (Reuters)

Young Swedes Urged to Vote In Sexy Video

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

STOCKHOLM — The youth wing of Sweden's ruling Social Democrats on Wednesday launched a racy campaign to win over first-time voters in the upcoming general election by reminding voters of their first sexual encounter.

Some 120,000 first-time voters are receiving a video in the mail this week that opens with a steamy sex scene and the words: "Do you remember your first time?"

The MTV-style video features the sex scene interspersed with clips of people talking about their "first time." Only at the end of the video is the reference to voting clear.

But so far not all the recipients of the video, posted in an anonymous envelope, were amused.

"I got really scared and wondered if I should phone the police," Theresa Tagesson, 21, told the daily newspaper Expressen.

A Social Democrat Youth official said the video was meant to provoke curiosity and awareness. "Anyone who perceives this as pornography must have a very boring life," said the youth group's leader, Niklas Nordstrom.

(AP, Reuters)

Sixth Fleet Is Smaller but Still on Vigil to Move Fast to Crisis Area

By William Drozdiak

Washington Post Service

GAETA, Italy — A nightmare scenario is never far from the mind of Vice Admiral Daniel Murphy Jr. when, in his command post aboard the USS LaSalle, he scrutinizes intelligence reports from some of the world's meanest neighborhoods.

It is his Sixth Fleet that may have to respond to an emergency.

In Serbia, fighting between Serbs and ethnic Albanians in the southern province of Kosovo threatens to spill across international borders.

In the Aegean, Turkey and Greece are squabbling about sovereignty over several islands, including Cyprus.

Along the Black Sea, nationalist rivalries in the Caucasus Mountains are fueling danger of civil wars.

Social unrest spawned by poverty, soaring birth rates and religious extremism simmers across North Africa.

As he surveys the Sixth Fleet's zone of responsibility, Admiral Murphy's biggest worry is that one or more of these flash points could explode and stretch the fleet's capabilities to the limit.

"We simply could not handle that kind of scenario," the admiral said in an interview. "We can't maintain a presence in all areas of tension and so we would have to sort out our priorities. It's tough to figure out how we can succeed in deterring all of these conflicts."

As the North Atlantic Treaty Organization prepares to take in Poland,

Hungary and the Czech Republic as new members, defense planners are starting to ponder the consequences of the alliance's "second enlargement" — an expansion of tasks and responsibility beyond its territory to protect Western security interests.

Under a new strategic concept to be adopted when NATO celebrates its 50th anniversary at a summit conference in Washington next April, the Sixth Fleet appears destined to become the main launching pad to project Western military power in the Mediterranean, even though its assets have diminished since Cold War days.

"That will make the question of priorities dicier than ever before," he said. "It's obvious that when you remove more ships and add more tasks and responsibilities, things get a lot more difficult."

For nearly a half-century, the U.S. commitment to Europe's security was embodied by hundreds of thousands of soldiers clustered in Germany to thwart any possible Soviet-led invasion.

Nearly seven years after the Soviet Union formally disbanded, a quiet but dramatic transformation in the U.S. defense posture is taking place. Instead of tanks and soldiers hunkered down near the Fulda Gap in Germany, the focus of America's engagement has shifted toward the Mediterranean, where many analysts believe the Western allies confront their most perplexing military challenges.

"There are many sources of instability and they all seem to be present in this region," said Admiral T. Joseph Lopez, commander in chief of allied forces in Southern Europe. "We need to apply the same kind of forward engagement across the line that won the Cold War so that we can prevent conflicts before they endanger us."

Some analysts, however, believe the United States and its allies are failing to make the right investments in adapting to the changing security environment.

While tens of billions of dollars are being earmarked for NATO expansion into Central Europe, they argue that too few resources are being invested in preparing for the likelihood of future military crises along the southern flank.

"There is very little work being done on NATO's southern strategy, even though everybody agrees that is where the next war could happen," said F. Stephen Larabee, director of European studies at the Rand Corp.

"The alliance is being expanded into Central Europe, where the threat has vanished, yet nobody seems to know if it can cope with the multiple risks present in the Mediterranean."

John Dowding, senior naval analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, warns that aircraft carriers and other large vessels that form the backbone of the Sixth Fleet could prove vulnerable to such modern perils as a proliferation of medium-range ballistic missiles.

"The world has become a more dangerous place since the Cold War, and we will probably see a profusion of smaller wars fought with high-technology weaponry," he said. "A standing naval fleet in the Mediterranean costs a lot of money to maintain, yet it could go down the drain with a few high-impact missiles."

Even though the Sixth Fleet has shrunk nearly in half since the Cold War, it still constitutes the most powerful armada in the world, with 20,000 sailors and Marines, up to 30 warships and more than 100 aircraft.

The fleet patrols danger spots around Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

According to Sixth Fleet officers, 80 percent of the military contingencies involving the United States since the December 1991 breakup of the Soviet

Union have occurred within the fleet's zone of responsibility.

Its Marines have helped evacuate American civilians from Albania, Liberia and Sierra Leone. They are on alert for possible intervention in Congo if another war and refugee crisis should threaten to destabilize central Africa.

The fleet has carried out sustained air strikes and cruise-missile attacks that were credited with bringing the warring parties in Bosnia to sign a peace agreement in 1995.

It continues to help enforce a "no-fly" zone over Bosnia and would play an active role in a military intervention in Kosovo to halt Serbian attacks.

It's 'Non' for Beef a la Viagra

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

PARIS — A chef in the French Alps who thought he had devised a way to get around the country's prohibition on the anti-impotence drug Viagra found himself in hot water with French government officials on Wednesday.

Jean-Louis Galland, chef at the Hotel de la Renovation in Thonon-les-Bains, had been serving a "beef piccata in Viagra sauce infused with fig vinegar and herbs" since Sunday.

But government inspectors seized Mr. Galland's supply of Viagra, which he had obtained in nearby

Switzerland. "Viagra is not approved in France," said an official of the Finance Ministry's Department of Consumer Protection. "So this appears to have been a case of dispensing drugs without a license."

Mr. Galland said he did not feel like a criminal and would continue to look for ways to make his customers happy, "particularly grandpas and their wives."

"I don't understand it," the chef said.

"They make medicine to make love better and they want to make war with me." (AP, Reuters)

3 Turkish Generals Lose Political Roles

By Stephen Kinzer

New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — Three Turkish generals who led the military's campaign against what it sees as the rising influence of Islamic fundamentalism have retired or been transferred to provincial posts, where they will presumably have little to do with politics.

The transfers, part of a normal military rotation, have nonetheless led some Turks to wonder whether the military will take a lower profile in its battle against religious fundamentalism.

After a four-day meeting earlier this month, military spokesmen announced the retirement of the army's chief of staff, General Ismail Hakkı Karadayı, who had served the prescribed four years but whose friends had sought to prolong his active service; the transfer of General Cevik Bir, the second-ranking commander, to a field command near Istanbul; and the appointment of General Erol Ozkanak, secretary to the

general staff, as chief of a cavalry school.

All three were major figures in the military-led campaign that forced the resignation of Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan in June last year. They accused him of plotting to undermine Turkish secularism.

The generals then approved the new prime minister, Mesut Yılmaz, and have continued to denounce what they describe as growing fundamentalist influence in Turkish society.

The military's own political influence has risen sharply in recent years. Rivalries among civilian political factions have weakened successive Turkish governments, and, partly as a result, the military has taken on a larger role in key policy decisions. It is principally responsible for policy toward Israel, Greece and nearby countries. It also directs the war against Kurdish insurgents and helps set the limits on political dissent.

Because criticism of the military can

be judged criminal, debate over the legacy of the outgoing generals cannot be conducted freely. Some Turks, however, believe the officers did what was necessary to preserve secularism. Others feel they brought the military too deeply into politics.

"You'd make your judgment according to what side of the division in Turkish society you're on," said İler Turan, a professor of political science at Koc University in Istanbul.

"Secularists will tend to evaluate this as a great service to the nation and enhancement of democracy. The more religious camp sees it as an unsolicited intervention on the part of state elites."

Military commanders have publicly rejected speculation in the press that the incoming team might take a softer line toward politicized Islam.

The outgoing commander, General Karadayı, asserted that such reports "encourage reactionary circles and lay the groundwork for fundamentalism."



NEW TRIAL ORDERED — Mahmut Yilmaz, one of seven Turkish students imprisoned for two years for demonstrating against tuition increases, beaming as he left the State Security Court in Ankara on Wednesday.

The Fight Goes On / The President's Choice of Words

Clinton's Words His Own, but Some Aides Opposed Defiance of Starr

By John F. Harris
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — In a meeting at the White House on Sunday, Mickey Kantor, presidential confidant and lawyer, arrived clutching papers. It was a speech draft, written in President Bill Clinton's own hand, and Mr. Kantor waved it for emphasis.

Everyone, according to several people in the room, understood Mr. Kantor's point: The president of the United States knew exactly what he wanted in say when he addressed the nation about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the former White House aide.

Throughout the next day, there would be new drafts written by advisers, cautions edited insisted upon by lawyers, and arguments to Mr. Clinton from the staff to discard his defiant criticism of the independent counsel Kenneth Starr.

In the White House solarium Monday evening, the wrangling between different White House factions over the wording of the speech continued until less than an hour before the 10 P.M. air time.

In the end, however, the speech Mr. Clinton gave was emphatically his own — too much so for his own good, some aides worried the day after.

The consensus among onerous Clinton loyalists, both in the White House and outside, was that Mr. Clinton had effectively addressed the concerns

of a majority of Americans with his televised statement that his relationship with Ms. Lewinsky was "not appropriate" and that he took "complete responsibility" for a "critical lapse in judgment."

But several advisers also agreed that the second half of Mr. Clinton's speech, with its seething tone toward Mr. Starr and the president's insistence that his adulterous sexual relationship with the former intern was "nobody's business" but his family's, had inflamed an already hostile environment in Washington.

In the assessment of White House political advisers, Republicans and the news media wanted Mr. Clinton to be bold, and to hold himself, accountable for his transgressions with Ms. Lewinsky.

That being the case, they argued, why would he want to muddy a speech intended to signal remorse and the acceptance of responsibility with words of victimhood and grievance?

The answer, and the last word on the subject, was that Mr. Clinton himself wanted it that way. In the end, political advisers persuaded Mr. Clinton to tone down some of his rhetoric, but the gist of it stayed intact.

"People complain Clinton is programmed," said one Clinton adviser, "but it does not get any more authentic than this. He said exactly what he thinks."

Numerous sources with firsthand or

close secondhand knowledge of the speech deliberations discussed the evolution of the speech under the condition they not be quoted by name.

Several described three clusters of advisers with different interests in the speech.

One cluster included White House political advisers such as Rahm Emanuel and Paul Begala, who felt that Mr. Clinton's most important task was to try to bring closure to the Lewinsky controversy with an unambiguous display of contrition.

A second cluster, led by Mr. Clinton's private attorney, David Kendall, wanted Mr. Clinton above all to do nothing that might increase his legal jeopardy. This meant limiting apologies and being vague about precisely what actions he was expressing regret about.

A third cluster, which included the White House aide Sidney Blumenthal and apparently with the support of Hillary Rodham Clinton, was eager to take the offensive against Mr. Starr with expressions of outrage about the robbing nature of his four-year investigation and condemnation of his alleged violations of privacy. Mr. Blumenthal faxed in his suggestions from a European vacation.

Amid this barrage of advice, aides said Mrs. Clinton urged her husband to simply say what he felt.

Yet, even a speech as intimately personal as this was, like all Clinton speeches, a committee product.

Mr. Begala, a political consultant who joined the White House staff last year, was tapped as editor of the effort.

But Mr. Begala was working only in the abstract. It was not until Monday, after Mr. Clinton had begun testifying, that Mr. Kantor was given the green light to actually share with him Mr. Clinton's proposed speech.

Only then, just several hours before the speech, did White House officials learn of the harsh language Mr. Clinton wanted to include against Mr. Starr.

But even some aides who wanted Mr. Clinton to take a softer line were wary of overdoing words of apology. Clinton aides said this would have amounted to groveling that would have weakened

Mr. Clinton's reputation both at home and overseas.

Having concluded that an all-out apology went too far, the question confronting the White House on Tuesday was whether the language Mr. Clinton did use had gone far enough.

While most of the country likes Mr. Clinton and is rooting for him, one aide said, Republicans and many reporters are driven to distraction by their fear that Mr. Clinton is getting away with something.

It was largely to overcome this response from Washington that White House political advisers worked Tuesday to generate a public perception that Mr. Clinton has indeed paid for his sins.

The White House prodded Democrats on Capitol Hill to spread the message that Mr. Clinton had paid a grievous price for what they described as private sexual follies. Among those whom political advisers prompted to make a statement was Senator Robert Torricelli, Democrat of New Jersey, who called a reporter unsolicited from a trip to England.

"As a husband, father and a man, Bill Clinton has been humiliated," said Mr. Torricelli. "I see no value in compounding the pain."

Mr. Torricelli said he had spoken with Mr. Clinton Tuesday and discerned a deep "sense of relief." Bill Clinton probably always knew he was going to face this moment of truth.

Details Emerge of Testimony to Jury

By Peter Baker
and Susan Schmidt
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — As President Bill Clinton left Washington for a 10-day vacation, new details emerged about his testimony to a grand jury, the first time any president has been questioned in a criminal investigation of his actions.

Soon after the session began in the White House Map Room, Mr. Clinton read a prepared statement that gave an account of his sexual encounters with Monica Lewinsky, specifically acknowledging engaging in oral sex with her and detailing some times and places where they met, according to sources familiar with his testimony.

Some of the times and dates cited by the president may not have matched other evidence or testimony, they said.

After reading his statement, "that's when he said, 'That's all I'm going to say, that's it,'" a lawyer close to the Clinton camp said.

The special counsel, Kenneth Starr, and four of his prosecutors called a break and bugged outside the room, then returned and posed questions that Mr. Clinton refused to answer, complaining that they were graphic and intrusive.

The Starr lawyers told him they reserved the right to reissue a subpoena they withdrew when Mr. Clinton agreed to testify voluntarily, which could lead to the president's being held in contempt of court if he continued to refuse to testify.

The independent counsel's office had no comment on the president's testimony Monday and there was no indication whether Mr. Starr was determined to press the issue. Mr. Starr could forgo further attempts to question the president and instead cite his refusal as an example of impeding his investigation in the report to Congress on possible grounds for impeachment, legal experts said.

"I cannot speak for the independent counsel, nor do I know what transpired, but it would seem to me there would be some risk in reissuing a subpoena," said John Bates, a former Starr deputy. The public, he said, might see such a move as overreaching by the prosecutor.

After the impasse over sex-related questions, Mr. Starr's team asked about evidence related to possible subornation of perjury and obstruction of justice in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. The president answered all questions touching on such issues, according to sources, including those about Vernon Jordan's job search for Ms. Lewinsky and her return of presidential gifts to Mr. Clinton's personal secretary, Betty Currie, despite a subpoena ordering her to turn them over to Mrs. Jones's lawyers.

Details about how the president responded were not revealed, although in his Monday-night address to the nation he denied asking anyone to lie or hide evidence. While the vast majority of the questioning at a session described by sources as combative dealt with Ms. Lewinsky, Mr. Starr and his deputies also asked about Kathleen Willey, the former White House aide who accused Mr. Clinton of groping her in the Oval Office suite and has testified about alleged efforts to change her testimony. Mr. Clinton has publicly denied her account.

Mr. Starr himself asked two questions but left the bulk of interrogation to his deputies, Jackie Bennett, Solomon Wisenberg and Robert Bitman, and the associate independent counsel, Michael Emmick. Joining Mr. Clinton were his private attorneys, David Kendall and Nicole Seligman, and the White House counsel, Charles Ruff.

According to one account, the session

began at 1:03 P.M. and broke up at 6:18 P.M., including several breaks.

The Clinton camp is confident the president does not face legal peril on a charge of perjury in the Jones case because his answers in his Jan. 17 deposition were so vague and were often bedged with qualifiers such as "I believe" or "I recall" or "perhaps."

For example, when he was asked by Mrs. Jones's attorney, James Fisher, if he was ever alone with Ms. Lewinsky in the Oval Office, Mr. Clinton said, "I don't recall," but then said she sometimes brought him papers on weekends.

Sources familiar with the president's legal strategy said Mr. Clinton in his testimony Monday cited what they called a loophole in the definition of

"sexual relations" used during the Jones deposition, maintaining that it did not appear to include oral sex performed on him.

It was not clear, however, how or if Mr. Clinton explained other sexual activity that Ms. Lewinsky reportedly testified about, including intimate touching that would be covered by the definition.

Ms. Lewinsky testified just once, on Aug. 6, after securing a deal with Mr. Starr that provided her and her parents with full immunity from prosecution in exchange for her truthful testimony.

But Mr. Starr's office notified her Tuesday that she must appear Thursday so the prosecutors can compare Mr. Clinton's testimony with her recollections.



President Clinton, with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin in the background, walking into the Rose Garden on Aug. 6, with the teltale tie.

TIE: A Signal From President to Lewinsky?

Continued from Page 1

If it was, it did not work. Ms. Lewinsky did not learn of Mr. Clinton's choice of neckties until she turned on the television that evening and saw a video clip of him in the Rose Garden, her friends said. That day, she had contradicted her sworn affidavit, testifying that she and the president had had an affair in the White House.

The necktie was evidently covered by a subpoena sent to the White House for gifts and other evidence by prosecutors for Mr. Starr. But apparently it was not turned over by Mr. Clinton at that time.

Clothing has become something of a leitmotif in Mr. Starr's investigation. He has pursued a great deal of circumstantial evidence in his investigation of Mr. Clinton, including gifts like a T-shirt that the president gave her. One of Mr. Starr's potentially strongest pieces of evidence is a navy blue dress, bought at the Gap, that Ms. Lewinsky turned over to prosecutors.

On Monday, during more than four hours of testimony at the White House, prosecutors asked Mr. Clinton why he chose to wear that particular tie on that particular day, one Clinton adviser said. An ally of Mr. Clinton's described the inquiry into neckwear as an example of how the Starr investigation had gone

rambling along irrelevant and peculiar byways. "The obstruction-of-justice stuff was kind of goofy," one Clinton adviser said Tuesday.

The president was said to have smiled at the question and expressed some bafflement. Perry-Mason-style, the prosecutors then pulled out a photograph of the tie. Mr. Clinton was said to have indicated that it was possible she had given it to him but that he certainly was not trying to communicate anything by wearing it.

But the tie may have meant a lot to Ms. Lewinsky, who is said to have looked at television reports to see whether he was wearing it. In June, Ms. Lewinsky noticed that Mr. Clinton had worn the tie she had given him on three occasions in recent months: on the day he left for his trip to China, the day he returned and several days later, in Atlanta.

Ms. Lewinsky had given Mr. Clinton six ties during their 18-month relationship, which began in November 1995.

In his brief speech Monday night, Mr. Clinton contradicted his previous denials and acknowledged that he had had a relationship with Ms. Lewinsky. That night, Ms. Lewinsky's friends were dismayed that he seemed to send her no signals whatsoever.

He wore a patterned blue tie, of undetermined provenance.

What Major Politicians Are Saying

"I was present in the Roosevelt Room in January when the president categorically denied any sexual involvement with Monica Lewinsky. I believed him. His remarks last evening leave me with a deep sense of sadness in that that trust in his credibility has been badly shattered." — *Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, a longtime ally of President Bill Clinton.*

"This is no longer a question of private morality or political popularity. Certainly, we could spare the country a great deal of pain by abandoning the rule of law. That's too high a price. With great sadness, I have concluded that the president should resign or face impeachment." — *Representative Paul McCrory, Democrat of Pennsylvania.*

"Some Republicans and Starr want us and the American people to know every lurid detail of the president's sex life. Quite frankly, we don't want to

know and the American people don't want to know. It's almost as if they won't be happy until they put the president in stocks and have a public flogging. I think the American people are going to be fed up with this self-righteous moralism of Starr and some of these Republicans." — *Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa, who competed against Mr. Clinton for the Democratic nomination in 1992.*

"The American public has said it's time for the nation to move on, and I agree wholeheartedly that the time has come for the independent counsel to leave the stage and allow the president to return to the governing of this country." — *Representative John Conyers Jr. of Michigan, the top-ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee.*

"I think the American people would have liked to see the president not only admit his mistake but also apologize. He misled the American people repeatedly, he misled his own staff. I

think the people expected an apology there. And I expected one, frankly." — *Representative Lee Hamilton, Democrat of Indiana, whom Mr. Clinton considered as his running mate in 1992.*

"While I welcome the president's statement and hope that it hastens the conclusion of this tawdry matter, I believe the behavior he engaged in was deplorable. I do not agree with those who dismiss the significance of this affair as being only about private matters." — *Senator John Chafee, Republican of Rhode Island, a moderate who has often voted in support of Mr. Clinton.*

"It is bad enough that our president is guilty of having an extramarital sexual relationship with one of his young interns. But it is much more damaging that this president looked the American people in the eye and knowingly lied to us." — *Representative Tom DeLay, Republican of Texas, the House minority whip.*

BOOKS

DREAM CHILDREN

By A.N. Wilson. 218 pages.
\$23.95. W.W. Norton & Co.

Reviewed by Miehiro Kakutani

A FIRST glance, Oliver Gold, the philosopher "hero" of A.N. Wilson's 17th novel, seems like a satire on Iris Murdoch's charismatic genius figures — one of those charming, controlling priest-types who surround themselves with admiring groupies and disciples.

There is a more sinister side to Oliver, however, and the gradual revelation of his secret life will turn "Dream Children" from a typical Wilson comedy of manners into something darker and more disturbing.

Oliver, we're told, has been hailed as "the Ruskin or the Mill de notre époque" and is rumored to be working on a great novel that would "take its place beside Mann, Proust, Dostoyevsky." He's the sort of man whose idea of a good time is boiling up alone in a cabin and re-reading the complete works of Hegel in German.

Oliver is idolized by students, respected by colleagues and worshipped by women. In particular, worshipped by the women with whom he shares a house at 12 Wagner Rise in London: Catherine Cuffe, a former student who thinks of herself as his intellectual soul mate; Cuffe's friend, Michael Rose, a social worker, who falls passionately in love with Michael's mother, Janet, a literary banger-on who desperately covets his intellectual cachet; Michael's 10-year-old daughter, Bobs, who sees him as a playmate, father figure and best friend; and Bobs' nanny, Lotte, an odd

young woman with a hysterical streak. The seemingly placid household at 12 Wagner Rise (another one of those insular little worlds Wilson loves to depict) is abruptly shaken one morning when news arrives that Oliver is planning to get married — not to one of his longtime admirers, but to a vile American interloper named Camilla Baynes.

The arrival of Camilla and her redoubtable mother, Rosalie, sets off a series of confrontations and subterfuges, and those intrigues will in turn threaten to expose Oliver's deepest, most shameful secret.

Like Nabokov's Humbert Humbert, Oliver has a passion for little girls — more specifically, a passion for little Bobs, his "dream child," with whom he has been having an "affair" for several years. Oliver is not just a dirty old man with no regard for the emotional damage he has inflicted on the child; he's also a wildly selfish egotist who believes his status as a genius entitles him to play by different rules than the "evil, lumpen people" who would regard Bobs as his victim.

Oliver has concocted a host of rationalizations to reconcile his actions with his assertion that his life "had been a dedicated pursuit of virtue." He has even convinced himself that his secret diaries recording his obsession with Bobs will one day be recognized as a work of art, superior to Rousseau's "Confessions."

For the time being, however, Oliver knows that people are not ready for his "great love story," and he's distraught that someone — no doubt one of the women at 12 Wagner Rise — has stolen a copy of his secret manuscript. Should

be exposed as a pervert, Oliver thinks, he will have to kill Bobs, and then kill himself.

These melodramatic events are related by Wilson's omniscient narrator with cool aplomb, and nimbly orchestrated to re-examine two of the author's perennial themes: the dichotomy of innocence and experience and the difficulty of knowing another human being.

Wilson has modulated his usual light, comic voice to accommodate his dark subject matter, producing a novel that is both chilling in its depiction of a madman and hitting in its portrayal of a group of self-deluding bohemians.

In fact, every character in this novel is revealed to be in the grip of a serious delusion. Oliver, of course, convinces himself — and his groupies — that he is a kind of "secular saint." Cuffe tells herself that she really understands her former professor. Michael pretends that she has found in Oliver the perfect baby sitter for her daughter. And Janet persuades herself that she is still a player in the literary world.

Needless to say, the price of their collective illusions will be the shattered innocence of a 10-year-old girl.

Wilson uses his sharp wit to capture the foibles of his characters: he coyly mocks their fondness for trendy bohemian poses and eviscerates their penchant for using convoluted intellectual arguments to justify their moral lapses. "Dream Children" may start out, like so many Wilson novels, as an innocuous domestic watercolor, but it ends up muting into something closer to creepy Balzac paintings of children that reverberate with menace and dread.

The New York Times

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

TWO of the world's best four-somes were battling down to the wire earlier this month in the final of the Spingold Knockout Teams. It was Sunday night in Chicago, at the end of the American Contract Bridge League's Summer Nationals, and some 300 spectators were watching the proceedings intently in the Vnograph theater.

The match had been close throughout, and with two deals remaining, four Polish stars — Marek Szymanski, Marcin Lesniewski, Adam Zmudzinski and Cezary Balicki — were in action while their teammates, Grant Baze and the newcomer Michael Whitman, cheered on the sidelines. Their team, trying to defend the title they won in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a year ago, trailed by just two imps. In opposition

was a group that had won the title on five of the previous six occasions: Nick Nickell, Dick Freeman, Jeff Meckstroth, Eric Rodwell, Boh Hammer and another newcomer, Paul Soloway.

The final deal, shown in the diagram, seemed likely to give victory to the Poles. Both teams reached four spades after an opening one-diamond bid and a one-spade response raised to two. Meckstroth, as shown, used an artificial rebid of two no-trump en route to game. (The computer that provided an invaluable record on the Internet was caught up in the excitement and listed his partner as Rodwell.) Szymanski simply hid four spades at his second turn.

Four spades is not easy, but Szymanski made it. After a heart lead he finessed the jack, knowing that if this lost he would have no available. When it won he threw a

diamond on the heart ace, finessed the club queen successfully and ruffed a club. He then cashed the ace and king of spades and survived the bad trump split when the clubs divided evenly. His only losers were two trumps and a diamond.

In the Vnograph 20 minutes later Meckstroth also took the immediate heart finesse and discarded a diamond loser on the heart ace. But instead of taking the club finesse he led to the club ace and ruffed a club. He then cashed the ace and king of spades, following with a club ruff. But he was ruined by the bad trump split, since he was now in the wrong hand to continue clubs: result, down two.

The Nickell team lost 11 imps, but had won the title by one because on the preceding deal they had gained 10 thanks to a good Meckstroth opening lead. The issue was

therefore decided by the accident of vulnerability. If Meckstroth had been vulnerable in four spades he would have lost 13 and his team would have lost by one instead of winning by that same insignificant margin.

NORTH			
♠ A 5 3			
♥ Q 1 2			
♦ K 7 6 4			
♣ 9			
WEST (D)			
♠ Q 10 7			
♥ K 5 4			
♦ Q 3			
♣ J 10 2			
EAST			
♠ 9			
♥ 10 9 7 6			
♦ A 7 10 5 2			
♣ K 6 3			
SOUTH			
♠ K 6 4 2			
♥ 7			
♦ 8 4			
♣ A Q 7 5 4			
East and West were vulnerable.			
The bidding:			
West	North	East	South
Pass	1♠	Pass	1♠
Pass	2♠	Pass	2NT
Pass	3♠	Pass	3♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♠
West led the heart four.			

On Vacation, Clinton Gets Warm Welcome

EDGARTOWN, Massachusetts — With the sun shining faintly behind a hazy gray cloud, President Bill Clinton stepped off Air Force One with his wife, Hillary, his daughter, Chelsea, and his dog, Buddy, and headed right toward a mostly enthusiastic, sometimes adoring crowd that gathered to welcome him back. It would have been like any of the Clintons' three previous trips to Martha's Vineyard for August vacations, were it not for subtle reminders from people like Jack Griffin, visiting from Springfield, Massachusetts.

"Live and let live," Mr. Griffin yelled Tuesday as he plunged to the front of the greeting line waiting for Mr. Clinton off the tarmac at the airport. "We're with ya, baby. We're with ya!"

Tamara Benton, who had watched the president's televised remarks Monday night, was also there to greet him, working her way to the front of the line and grasping Mr. Clinton's hand for a second. "Ahhh!" exclaimed the 26-

year-old secretary from Edgartown, with her friends standing nearby. "He looked right at me. He's so good-looking." (WP)

The Spirit Is Willing, But the Flesh Is Weak

WASHINGTON — In the last few days, as Mr. Clinton signaled and then acknowledged that the allegations against him were true, the two strongest voices asking the nation to forgive the president have been the Reverend Jesse Jackson and the Reverend J. Philip Wogaman, the minister at Foundry United Methodist Church, where Mr. Clinton worships most Sundays when he is in town.

Their emergence reflects the transformation of a months-long political scandal into a morality tale in which questions of confession, contrition and forgiveness — traditionally the concern of pastors and theologians — have become the focus of public debate.

Mr. Clinton regularly attends church and prayer breakfasts, and since becoming president has turned for moral

counsel to a string of spiritual advisers. (WP)

Reno 'Considering' Yet Another Probe

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Janet Reno is "seriously considering" seeking the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate alleged campaign finance abuses of the 1996 Clinton-Gore re-election effort, federal law enforcement sources said.

After resisting calls for such an investigation for two years, Ms. Reno is "as close as she's ever been" to seeking an outside counsel, the sources said, as she weighs whether to recommend an investigation into Harold Ickes's activities as the White House's point man for 1996 fund-raising. They emphasized that no final decision has been made.

The sources also confirmed a report in The Wall Street Journal on Tuesday that the Justice Department had reopened its review of the legality of Vice President Al Gore's fund-raising calls from the White House. (WP)

Asia. Fear

INTER: Morning

U.S. Urges E

INTERNATIONAL

In Asia, Fears That Clinton Scandal Will Erode U.S. Leadership

By Kathryn Tolbert
International Herald Tribune

TOKYO — Deep disappointment in President Bill Clinton, admiration for the American system and worry about U.S. leadership during Asia's economic crisis characterized Asian editorial comment Wednesday following Mr. Clinton's admission of lying about an extramarital affair.

Many commentators said the president's moral authority and his presidency were irreversibly damaged, that he had disgraced himself and that his televised speech was not sincere.

"Rather than a straight confession, we got the impression this was a well-calculated act to protect himself," said Japan's Asahi Shimbun.

In Seoul, Hong Kong and Tokyo, editors worried about the impact of Mr. Clinton's admission on his credibility as a world leader.

"The truth is, however critical we are of Washington's international behavior, its presence and engagement are necessary for world stability in the broadest sense," said the Hong Kong Standard. "Especially now that countries in Asia and beyond are in the throes of economic

difficulties, a U.S. brooding over domestic politics at the expense of its international role and obligations should be strongly discouraged."

One of Seoul's leading dailies, Jung-gang Ilbo, echoed that worry. "The primary concern now is the danger that the U.S. may lose consistency and trust, for that matter, its policies, particularly foreign policy," it said. "We all know there is a direct link between the credibility of the president and trustworthiness of the country he represents."

Tokyo's Yomiuri Shimbun said it was possible that Mr. Clinton would be little more than a lame duck leader for the remainder of his term, concluding: "The international community will be paying close attention to see whether Mr. Clinton will be able to put the matter behind him and return to the role that is expected of him."

Words of praise were saved for Hillary Rodham Clinton and the American system. The Korean Broadcasting System commented Tuesday night that "Hillary's attitude was impressive," and Singapore television praised her for "standing by her man."

In Indonesia, where former President Suharto was forced out of office this year

after 32 years in power, The Jakarta Post said Mr. Clinton had "shown his gallantry" by admitting his guilt and it said it was understandable that Americans, with a robust economy, would continue to support him. It added that "compared to hundreds of millions of people in countries ruled by dictators and military despots who exploit their nations' wealth for their own interests, Americans are far luckier to live in a country governed by a solid constitution that guarantees their rights and freedom."

The U.S. system that forced Mr. Clinton to admit before a grand jury that he lied about an extramarital affair was widely praised.

Above all, the Lewinsky affair reminds us that everyone is equal before the law in America," said Hankook Ilbo, a major Korean daily. "The case is so impressive because it proves that the U.S. adheres to the rule of law even when a president is involved."

A member of Japan's Parliament, Yuriko Koike, interviewed Tuesday by the Mainichi Shimbun, said she admired the fight between politicians and prosecutors as well as Mr. Clinton's decision to go before the nation on television. "By doing so, the United States as a nation

succeeds in gaining a stronger system."

But others saw a decline in U.S. public life. "This phenomenon, probably, uncovers a far more serious malaise — the decline and approaching meltdown of American society itself," wrote a Philippine Star commentator, Max Soliven.

Thai politicians interviewed by The Nation in Bangkok said the problem was with the lie and its impact on Mr. Clinton's credibility with American voters, not the affair itself. "For the sexual matter, it is up to the American people to decide how they want their leader to be," said one. "In the old days, kings had many wives."

Nearly alone as a national leader willing to publicly comment, the newly elected president of the Philippines, Joseph Estrada, was quoted by Reuters Tuesday as saying he agreed with Mr. Clinton that leaders are entitled to their privacy. "Definitely. We are only human beings. We have to have private

lives also." Mr. Estrada has been criticized by the Catholic church for his lifestyle. He is reported to have as many as 10 children by various women.

In Europe, Mixed Reactions

President Clinton drew mockery and skepticism from European newspapers over his confessions regarding his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, Reuters reported from London.

"Mr. Clinton's tenure will continue for some time to come," said The Times of London. But, "The Clinton era is already over."

The Daily Mirror, a tabloid, was equally blunt. "Bill Clinton has shamed the American presidency," it said. "He shamed it by having an affair with a young woman at the White House. But most of all, he shamed it because he then lied to the American people."

Italy's Il Giornale spoke of "the suicide of a president in front of the tele-

vision cameras," while a Swedish newspaper, Expressen, quoted a Moderate Party deputy, Beatrice Ask, as saying: "I wouldn't stand by the wimp."

However, Prime Minister Goran Persson of Sweden lamented on television: "There's too much digging into people's lives."

The French press, which has a reputation of being largely indifferent to the sexual arrangements of politicians, seemed to suggest that America would be a far healthier place if it were France.

"If Bill Clinton had dared to cry out his confession instead of murmuring it, if he had clearly confessed rather than quibbling, this great sinner would have shown himself to be a great president," Le Figaro said.

But the Financial Times said: "There is enough time left in this presidency, enough important jobs to be done at home and abroad for Mr. Clinton to go some way towards rebuilding his status."

CLINTON: President Adopts Low Profile as Starr Keeps Probing

Continued from Page 1

Sept. 8 — left little room for the president to let down his guard.

There were suggestions, too, that some Clinton aides felt jolted and deceived by his acknowledgment of a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky. Many of them had faithfully supported him during seven months in which he stoutly denied such a relationship. Some reportedly were considering leaving the White House.

Feeling clearly run deep among many of his supporters in Congress, as well, Mr. Clinton has long enjoyed strong support among women and liberal Democrats. That made the reaction of Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, stand out.

"My faith in the president's credibility has been shattered," she said. "I do not know whether the president's remarks bring this most unfortunate period to an end."

California's other senator, Barbara Boxer, is also a liberal Democrat and has often defended the Clinton White House against scandal. Her daughter is married to Mrs. Clinton's brother. Yet she, too, was critical.

"I think he should have told us the truth seven months ago and we could have put this behind us," she told The Los Angeles Times. "That relationship was wrong — clear, black-and-white, no-room-for-ambiguity wrong."

Mr. Clinton's speech played better among the general public than it did on Capitol Hill, polls indicated. His job-approval rating was at 71 percent Tuesday, up from 67 percent a week earlier, according to a CBS News/New York Times poll, a rise within the poll's 4-percentage-point margin of error. And women's support for Mr. Clinton has continued to outpace men's, even after the president's much-dissected speech.

Like Kremlin-watchers of yore, analysts scrutinized film of the Clintons' departure Tuesday for clues of what has become of their relationship. Mrs. Clinton's body language was studied to see if it matched the statement from a spokeswoman Tuesday that the first lady "believes in this president and loves him very much."

It was noted that the three Clintons, in a much-photographed walk across the White House lawn to their helicopter, held hands tightly, but that Chelsea stood between her stiff and smiling mother and her father, and that at no time did the elder Clintons speak to each other or directly touch. The same was true on their arrival in Martha's Vineyard, where an enthusiastic crowd of friends and supporters met them.

There were signs, meanwhile, that women's support for Mr. Clinton, which was crucial to his re-election, may be largely dependent on Mrs. Clinton's continued support.

Reflecting the importance of Mrs. Clinton's reaction, Senator Carol Mosley-Braun of Illinois, said, "It's going to be up to Mrs. Clinton to forgive him." Ms. Mosley-Braun, a Democrat, said she personally had found the president's admission "hurtful," but added, "If Hillary can get over it, so can I."

Political kibitzers, meanwhile, debated whether Mr. Clinton should have remained in Washington, making a show of working on the nation's business — preparing, for example, for his upcoming visits to Russia and Ireland — or whether he had helped his cause more by leaving the Washington whirlpool for a 12-day vacation.

On Thursday, the vortex of attention will clearly be back in Washington, where Ms. Lewinsky will return to the federal courthouse. In her first appearance there, on Aug. 6, she reportedly admitted to an 18-month sexual involvement with Mr. Clinton.

Both Mr. Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky had originally denied the relationship in sworn statements in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. But on Monday, Mr. Clinton told prosecutors in testimony at the White House, seen by closed-circuit by grand jurors 12 blocks away, that there had been such an affair.

Prosecutors are now believed to want Ms. Lewinsky to respond to elements of Mr. Clinton's testimony. Mr. Starr's report may depend on how any differences are reconciled. While Mr. Starr's team is holding open the possibility of seeking the return of the president for further testimony, that is considered unlikely.

Congressional leaders are now waiting to see what the Starr report contains, how damaging the charges may be, and how pressing the calls are at that time for impeachment.

There is interest among some in Congress in taking a step short of impeachment but greater than doing nothing. Representative George Galas, Republican of Pennsylvania, said that Mr. Clinton should, at the least, be censured by the House for his admitted sexual misconduct.

RANCOR: Clinton and Starr Damaged

Continued from Page 1

White House's losing court battles to assert attorney-client privilege, executive privilege and a protective privilege for the Secret Service had all diminished the office of the presidency itself.

"The White House made a big mistake in litigating all these things because it has weakened the presidency," Mr. Gray said. "There's been a cutback in the leverage and bargaining power. These things have been lost forever for every future president. It's now clearly law."

Lloyd Cutler, a Democratic lawyer who served as the second White House counsel in the Clinton administration, also said that the court fights over those privileges had hurt the office of the presidency in both the near and long term, though he said the White House was not wrong to litigate them. He emphasized a lack of prosecutorial discretion on Mr. Starr's part.

"Nobody has ever pushed the envelope so far," Mr. Cutler said. "No president has ever been subpoenaed before to testify about his own alleged criminal conduct. I don't question the independent counsel's right to do so. But there is such a thing as prosecutorial discretion."

In resisting the independent counsel's attempts to question his closest advisers and the agents who protect him, Mr.

Clinton has portrayed himself as fighting for political survival, against what he and his wife have characterized as an unfairly intrusive, partisan witch-hunt.

The suspicions of bad faith on both sides have meant that the White House and the independent counsel have both been determined to fight every issue to the hilt.

"Neither one of them wants to give an inch," said E. Lawrence Barcella Jr., a former federal prosecutor, who likened the struggle to a cafeteria food fight. "The independent counsel isn't going to develop perspective and restraint he never had, and the president isn't suddenly going to decide to give in to this four-year obsession."

While few would predict a victor in the battle, there was wide agreement that when the independent counsel statute comes up for reauthorization, it will face dim prospects for renewal in its current form.

Even Lawrence Walsh, the independent counsel who spent six years and \$40 million investigating the Iran-contra affair, said he felt the statute should apply only to offenses committed by sitting presidents relating to their official duties. He also said he worried that a long-term consequence of the Lewinsky investigation was "the hurling of law enforcement in this country."



The coffin of a boy killed in Omagh being borne Wednesday to a graveyard in Buncrana, in the Irish Republic.

ULSTER: Mourning Town Scorns Cease-Fire Called by Bombers

Continued from Page 1

An IRA cease-fire, maintained for 13 months, made that agreement possible.

The agreement included creation of a new Northern Ireland, which would be to convince the Catholic minority in the North more power and to give the Irish Republic more influence in Northern affairs.

The Real IRA rejected the agreement because, the reforms notwithstanding, it leaves the province a part of the United Kingdom and stipulates that the North may only be subsumed into the Irish Republic if a majority of Northerners consent.

"Protestants, who have always opposed union with the Republic of Ireland, are likely to remain in the majority in the North well into the next century."

On Wednesday afternoon, one of the leaders of a political organization accused by the Irish and British governments of complicity in the Omagh bombing denied that she or her common-law husband, a former IRA weapons quartermaster, had been involved.

Bernadette Sands, of the 32-County Sovereignty Committee, which vehemently opposes the peace agreement, said she and her partner, Michael McK-

evitt, were leaving their home near Dundalk, not far across the border in the Irish Republic, because their children were being threatened by angry townspeople who thought the family was involved in the Omagh bombing.

One funeral, for three young boys, was in the town of Buncrana, across the border in County Donegal. Among the mourners were two political leaders.

One was Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA. The other was David Trimble, the leader of the Protestant Ulster Unionist Party and now first minister of the Assembly.

In his sermon, Bishop Seamus Hegarty of Donegal, clearly acknowledging that the two men rarely cooperate on anything, said, "This is a new and welcome development. Both of you are very welcome."

The bishop added that the peace agreement was "the only alternative; there is no other."

Mr. Trimble and Mr. Adams are both in the new Assembly, but Mr. Trimble has refused to speak to Mr. Adams or his Sinn Féin colleagues.

Their next battle is likely to be over whether Mr. Adams is to be appointed a

minister in the new provincial government.

In Dublin, Prime Minister Bertie Ahern announced what he called draconian laws to fight terrorism. The measures, if approved by Parliament, would make it easier to convict people of membership in terrorist organizations.

But the proposals did not include a restoration of preventive detention, the internment of suspects without trial. In the early 1970s, Britain interned hundreds of IRA suspects, but this proved counterproductive when the inmates became international celebrities through highly publicized hunger strikes that led, in a few cases, to their deaths.

On the bridge in Omagh, Graham McClelland, 55, a Protestant who is a government surveyor, noted that the Real IRA said it was reviewing its "future direction."

"It's a pity they didn't review their position before the carnage," he said.

Shaun O'Neill, an 11-year-old Catholic schoolboy, looked at the bouquets with his younger brothers, Ryan, 6, and Fergal, 3.

"I can't believe it," he said. "My mum was getting ready to go shopping there on Saturday. Then just about 3 o'clock, she decided not to bother. We all were going with her."

"I'm sad," added 6-year-old Ryan O'Neill.

U.S. Urges Exodus From Afghanistan

By Raymond Bonner
New York Times Service

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Adding to the fears and tensions following the bombing of embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, the U.S. Embassy here Wednesday urged all non-Muslims working in neighboring Afghanistan to leave.

"The warning was based on threats in general, not on anything specific, but was considered serious enough that the embassy sent it out in the early morning hours Wednesday."

In Cairo on Wednesday, a coalition of fundamentalist Islamic organizations threatened further attacks on Americans.

"The coming days will guarantee, God willing, that America will face a black fate," a group calling itself the World Islamic Front for Jihad Against Jews and Crusaders, said in a statement published in Al Hayat, the London-based Arabic newspaper.

The group is part of a far-reaching network run by Osama bin Laden, the Islamic militant who has publicly threatened a holy war against the United States. U.S. officials have named Mr. bin Laden, who operates from bases in Afghanistan, a prime suspect in the African bombings from the outset.

A senior non-American diplomat here said Wednesday, "I can confirm from non-American and non-Pakistani intelligence that he was involved in some way."

A leader of the Taliban, the fundamentalist movement that controls about 90 percent of Afghanistan and is the de facto government there, denied Wednesday that Mr. bin Laden had any role in the bombings.

"The Taliban can assure the world, 100 percent, that Osama bin Laden is not involved in any subversive activity," Mullah Mohammed Omar told the

Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press.

A suspect arrested in Pakistan and sent back to Kenya for interrogation, Mohammed Sadiq Odeh, allegedly told Pakistani investigators that the operation was the work of Mr. bin Laden. Mr. Sadiq Odeh also told investigators that in 1993 he had been sent to Somalia to carry out operations against U.S. troops there.

Along with the statement from the Jihad coalition, Al Hayat said it had re-

ceived statements from the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Holy Shrines.

That group said it would "continue shipping more American dead bodies to their unjust government."

Two Americans have left Afghanistan and more are expected to leave Thursday, U.S. officials said. There were between 15 and 20 Americans working in Afghanistan, along with 100 other expatriates, for a various nongovernmental organizations.

Not explain what they were looking for in the two rooms, numbered A107 and B102. The agents dusted for fingerprints on the doors, closets, desks and light switches.

"They never told us anything," he said. "They just took some fingerprints."

The staff at the hotel had cleaned the rooms several times since the week of the bombing. Mr. Abdalla said, so some forensic evidence might have been lost.

Several employees said they could recall nothing unusual about the men occupying the rooms in the days preceding the blast, except that they had appeared to be Muslims from the Middle East.

Moses Moi, a janitor who cleaned room A107, said the room was virtually empty each time he entered to straighten it during those three days. "They left nothing in the room," he said.

Another janitor, Francis Ishuga, who straightens B102 each day, said he saw nothing unusual the week of Aug. 7. Neither janitor could recall tools, wires, or chemicals in the rooms.

The co-manager of the hotel, Khalid Saleh, told reporters he thought it was unlikely the bomb had been constructed there. "That is something that is not really possible," he said.

AIDS: Infected African Mothers Are Faced With a Terrible Choice

Continued from Page 1

black eyes and a constant cough. Dorothy, frail and pretty in a tiny cotton dress, was delivered, with the help of friends, on the only mattress in the house.

Like at least 95 percent of Uganda's village women, Mrs. Nannyongoi has no idea whether she is infected with HIV. She has never had prenatal care, nor has she ever taken a blood test. She only knows about HIV because it killed two of her brothers. The cost of formula for one child, when it is available in Uganda and when there is clean water to mix with it, is on average 1.5 times what a village family earns each year. Mrs. Nannyongoi said she has never seen anyone use it.

"It seems so difficult to handle," she said, after hearing what is necessary to keep formula safe for babies. "How would I have the time?" She is currently feeding her baby 10 times a day, and each of those days is filled with essential chores.

Even if the formula were donated and delivered to her home, as UN officials hope it would be, she says it would be difficult to find a way to fetch the water, boil it and prepare the meals for her infant while also working in the garden and cooking for her husband, herself and her other daughter.

But when asked if she would use formula if it meant giving her child a better start in life, she said yes. That's because formula holds promise — one that is rarely realized in this part of the world.

"Oh sure, it could be great," said Dr. Francis Miro, the chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Makerere University Medical School in Kampala, the Ugandan capital.

Makerere is Africa's oldest university, and it was from here nearly 20 years ago that the first vague reports of "slim disease," as AIDS was called here before it had a name, started making their way to America. Since then, more than 2 million Ugandans, nearly 15 percent of the nation, have become infected, and of those, one million have died in this country where many researchers think the AIDS epidemic may have begun.

"Do you know what I would love to

be able to do all day?" Dr. Miro asked rhetorically. "I would love to counsel every HIV-positive mother about her choices in life. I would love to tell her about breast milk and about formula. Then I would love to have a conversation with her about what would happen to her in her village if she stopped breastfeeding. What would her mother-in-law say? What would her husband do? And of course I would love to make sure she understood the rules for keeping formula sterile and that she complied with them."

"I would love to do all that," he concluded wearily. "But then, I

Scarce funds make drug treatments that have become routine in the United States almost impossible to contemplate here. So people infected with the virus die, and usually they die quickly.

wouldn't be living in Uganda and I would be talking to my own people. I would be talking to your people."

Asked if he thought it was foolish to recommend formula to women living in villages, he closed his eyes and reeled off the numbers: "Twenty seven percent of babies born to infected mothers become infected from breastfeeding," he said. "In rural areas, 85 percent of babies will die from dirty water used in formula."

The obvious key to the benefits of using formula is that it is used with suitable water and under proper conditions.

Despite the habits of millennia, Dr. Miro and countless colleagues agree that something fairly drastic must be done to help protect children from HIV. If mothers who are infected with the virus do not breastfeed, their children will have a far better chance of survival.

What is more, AIDS experts now know that if a pregnant woman is treated

with a very inexpensive course of AZT during the final stages of her pregnancy, during birth and for a few days after her child is born, the chance of transmission of the virus to the child is reduced by half. The cost of such a course of treatment was until recently \$200 per person, but with the help of the UN AIDS program and the World Health Organization, the price is now \$50.

"This is the best life-saving program we have in the developing world," said Dr. Joseph Saba, a clinical research specialist with UN AIDS, who has coordinated the attempt to make drugs more accessible to people in Africa.

"You cannot just say to these people 'You are too poor to live.' You have to say we are trying everything on Earth in stop this plague. They have to know that we are not condemning them to death."

Dr. Saba comes often to Uganda to mediate between drug companies, health officials and aid agencies in an effort to bring drug prices down so that local governments and at least some people can afford them. He knows as well as anyone that, as is the case with formula, making AZT available to pregnant mothers raises almost as many terrible new questions as it answers.

And the biggest one is obvious: Will AZT encourage women to have children who will all either die or become orphans?

As soon as the mother delivers, she will stop taking AZT; almost no African women can afford to stay on it for long. That means she will die, probably within two or three years, sometimes much sooner. Her child will then almost certainly join the almost unimaginably vast army — in Africa alone the number is now past 8 million — of orphans that the AIDS epidemic has unleashed upon the world.

"What is worse?" asks Dr. Edward Mbitide, the chief of Uganda's Cancer Institute, and one of the country's medical leaders. "To let a baby die of AIDS when we can save it, or to let the baby into the world just to become an orphan in a society that has not been overwhelmed with death? I have not yet run into anyone who is qualified to answer that question."

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Mea Not So Culp

President Bill Clinton had the opportunity Monday evening to begin the process of putting the Monica Lewinsky scandal legitimately behind him — but that would have required the telling of some unvarnished truth. He passed it up in favor of still another attempt at manipulation, a mostly mock confession in which he made a show of taking responsibility that in fact he once again sought to dodge. He continues as well the unseemly practice of blaming others — political opponents, the independent counsel — for legal and political problems that are almost entirely of his own creation.

Mr. Clinton acknowledged his affair with Ms. Lewinsky, and in so doing he took the blame for that part of the scandal that alone cannot get him into serious trouble. Sex by a president with a young intern is offensive behavior, but it is not by itself grounds for any legal action against him, nor even likely an investigation.

And the more serious the allegation, the less responsibility the president was willing to take. He fudged over what he did when he looked the television cameras in the eye in January and directly denied having had a sexual relationship with "that woman," saying only that "my public comments and my silence about this matter gave a false impression — I misled people." He blurred the question of whether he told the truth in his deposition to the Paula Jones case, insisting that "my answers were legally accurate." He also said that "at no time did I ask anyone to lie, to hide or destroy evidence or to take any other unlawful action." He admitted to "a relationship with Miss Lewinsky that was not appropriate ... it was wrong." Let that be the end of it, was essentially what he asked.

But the affair itself has never been the issue in this case, as the president and the people around him well un-

derstand. Mr. Clinton, in fact, still resists addressing the real issues fully. He had promised to testify, "completely and truthfully," but he declined to answer certain questions to his grand jury appearance. His lawyers laid that on independent counsel Kenneth Starr, for having asked questions that were too personal. The president in his statement likewise attacked the Starr investigation for having "gone on too long, cost too much and hurt too many innocent people," as if the prosecutor were the one who lied, then stonewalled and beat the country out of shape the past seven months.

It is time, in fact it is past time, to move on," the president said, suggesting that the only issues remaining in the case were private ones having to do with him and his family, "nobody's business but ours." But that is not so. The basic questions as to whether he broke the law remain. They are hardly for the president himself to dismiss in a wishful speech. They await Mr. Starr's report to Congress.

Mr. Clinton would apparently have this report viewed, in light of his speech, as dead on arrival. But a failure to examine the facts seriously would be an abdication of Congress's constitutional obligation to weigh the evidence in a case as serious as this.

This is not to suggest that the House of Representatives must impeach or even take preliminary steps in that direction in order to fulfill its responsibilities. It is not obliged to act to any particular manner on Mr. Starr's report, and there are actions it could take short of impeachment that would be meaningful. What it cannot do is ignore an allegation, if one is made, of criminal conduct by a sitting president. However unpalatable this matter has become, Congress has no more right to blink it away than does Mr. Clinton.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

An Embarrassment

The U.S. president is a person who sometimes must ask people in the ranks to die for the country. The president is a person who asks people close around him to serve the government for less money than their talents would bring elsewhere. The president sometimes requires that people out to the country sacrifice their dollars or their convenience for national goals. All he is asked to provide in return is trustworthiness, loyalty and judgment. These concentric circles of the national family simply want the president to have enough character not to abuse their devotion.

President Bill Clinton has failed that simple test abjectly, not merely with undignified private behavior in a revered place, but with his cavalier response to public concern. That is why the cursory speech he made before departing on vacation probably did him more harm than good.

That is also why there is a tidal feeling of betrayal and embarrassment running across the country today, from the grass roots to the White House staff.

All day Tuesday the speech was panned on editorial pages and by talk show callers in states that Mr. Clinton carried. Rather than rallying to him, many congressional Democrats were openly critical or sour and silent. Although polls just after the speech looked all right, his Gallup personal approval rating, which stood at 60 percent two weeks ago, hit 40 percent on Tuesday. The same poll found that 58 percent thought that he should have made an outright apology.

It was, instead, a speech that left no one happy, except perhaps for that infamously amusing rather James Carville. Apology, the essential word for such remarks, was missing entirely, as well as any hint of awareness of the inexcusable carelessness with which Mr. Clinton has treated people.

Let us stipulate that lying to his family and evading questions before the grand jury should be dealt with in other venues, and consider only the violations of the contract of presidential obligation. Expressing regret for creating a "false impression" is not an adequate response when he lied to the American people for seven months. He lied to members of Congress in the Roosevelt Room. He has sent federal employees out to lie on his behalf, dispatching them like personal rather than public servants to argue passionately a position he knew to be false.

It is, perhaps, not surprising. Judgment and a sense of moral proportion

have always been missing elements to this administration. Presidential incorrigibility puts a heavy burden on the legislative and judicial branches to chart the country's course through a political storm. We know now that Mr. Clinton has spoken falsely on the lesser matter of his sex life and refused a full public accounting on the portentous matter, obstruction of justice, that will shape the future of his presidency.

By this time, Kenneth Starr has a clear idea of whether he thinks Mr. Clinton could be indicted. The time until he puts his report on this key issue into the hands of Congress must, for the good of the country, be measured to days or weeks, not months.

Mr. Clinton's handling of the office entrusted to him has embarrassed the nation. It is likely to remain a mystery locked inside a personality that even he may not fully understand.

Many have spoken of his story as having the shape of Shakespearean tragedy. We are more reminded of a passage in W. H. Auden's poem "The Quest," about an expedition that had spent months gathering equipment and laying plans to conquer expected obstacles.

"In theory they were sound on Expectation, Had there been situations to be in; Unluckily they were their situation."

With his refusal to give an apology and explanation that was presidential to scale, Mr. Clinton showed that his personality is his situation. Given the fact that he is supposed to serve until Jan. 20, 2001, he is our situation as well.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Other Comment

The Tone of the Coverage

The tone of the coverage has been organic from the moment the Pope was dumped in Cuba. For every factual development there have been days of prurient speculation and open longing for what in the porno biz is called "the money shot" (the still elusive dress).

On Monday, even when there was no information to be had about what was going on in the White House Map Room, television anchors interviewed each other or replayed a recondite piece about cyber-optic cable rather than devote appreciable air time to, say, the story in Northern Ireland.

—Frank Rich, commenting in The New York Times.

The Clinton Presidency Has Gone On Too Long

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton has offered a semi-honest account of his relationship with Monica Lewinsky in a desperate bid to hold onto his office and avoid legal charges that could lead to impeachment.

He said in his brief and tight-lipped speech on Monday it was time to move on to the serious work of the nation. He also said it was "nobody's business but ours," meaning himself and his family.

Would that it were so. But he made it Americans' business, the nation's burden, first by showing utter disrespect for the high office he holds and second by refusing all this time to do what he alone could do: clear up the matter.

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who reported the Watergate story for The Washington Post, have been arguing for months for "a sense of proportion." Consensual sex between adults, they rightly point out, is not the same as organizing a secret police operation in the White House and involving the FBI and the CIA to the cover-up of officially sanctioned crimes. But in one respect what Mr. Clinton has done is every bit as bad as what Richard Nixon did.

Like Mr. Nixon, who knew from the moment the Watergate break-in occurred what had really happened, Mr. Clinton knew from the first moment he was questioned about the White House intern what had been going on between them. Instead of owning up, he lied.

He not only lied to Paula Jones's lawyers, he lied to the public and to his closest political associates, and implicated the leaders of his party and his government in the deception. His selfishness of that act is staggering.

Two men who had served him loyally and well, former chief of staff Leon Panetta and former counselor George Stephanopoulos, were among the first to call on him last January to make a clean breast at once of whatever he knew. They recognized instantly the peril to their party if Mr. Clinton thought only of saving his own skin.

Others still in government were equally heartless, but less outspoken. A member of the cabinet who heard Mr. Clinton deny the charges to the assembled department heads said pri-

vately at the time, "He sat there and lied to us, and no one said a word."

Vice President Al Gore, who must have had his private doubts, has publicly and repeatedly proclaimed faith in his leader, doing incalculable damage to his own chances of being elected president.

After the speech on Monday, White House spokesmen said the president "felt as if a burden had been lifted from his shoulders." It is light, compared with the burden of falsehood he placed on others who put their trust in him.

In all those respects, Mr. Clinton's behavior is truly Nixonian.

And it is worse in one way — Mr. Nixon's actions, however criminal, were motivated by and connected to the exercise of presidential power. He knew the place he occupied and he was determined not to give it up to those he regarded as "enemies."

Mr. Clinton acted, and still acts, as if he does not recognize what it means to be president of the United States.

This office he sought all his life, for what? To hit on an intern about the age of his own daughter, an act for which any business executive or military

officer would be fired immediately?

The issue of his marriage vows truly is between him and Hillary Rodham Clinton. But the Oval Office, where he conducted his meetings with Ms. Lewinsky, belongs to the nation. When he told the American people, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky," he was speaking at an official ceremony held in the White House, our White House.

Betty Currie, the secretary whom he tried to involve in the cover-up, is on the public payroll. The same is true of the White House lawyers and aides and the Secret Service agents whose successors now will be much less useful to future presidents because of the futile legal fight Mr. Clinton conducted to shield their testimony.

Like Mr. Nixon, he has done things of importance for the country. But in every important way he has diminished the stature and reduced the authority of the presidency. He may hold on, but when he said of the investigation of his activities, "This has gone on too long," his words could equally well have applied to his own tenure.

The Washington Post.

Unworthy Leadership From a Corrupt Couple in the White House

By George F. Will

WASHINGTON — Eaten to a honeycomb by corruption, Bill Clinton's presidency effectively ended with his defiantly eccentric claim that his lying in the judicial process about sex to the White House was all a matter of his private life.

And there he goes again, lying about prior lies: "My answers were legally accurate," in the Jones deposition, in which he said he had no memory of being alone with the intern with whom he has a precise memory of doing something "not appropriate." (Perhaps using the salad fork on the entrée?)

Cornered after seven months by, among many other things, a dress about which he knows the truth, he says he must "take complete responsibility" for having oral sex without having sexual relations.

He says he never asked anyone to tamper with evidence, which means that one fine day Betty Currie had, like a bolt from the blue, the unprompted idea to ask the intern to hand over the presidential gifts. In-

corrigible skeptics may wish to bear from Ken Starr, who should rise to the challenge of Mr. Clinton's recidivism.

Mr. Clinton's most canine supporters have been reduced to the appropriate chore of identifying innocuous lies and permissible perjuries, and he has no remaining shred of public purpose, only the personal project of clinging to office.

Straining to drain this episode of any public significance and fill it with private bathos, he can be glimpsed hiding behind the skirts of this argument: Hillary forgives him, so the country should, too. The argument's twofold flaw is that it supposes that Hillary is exemplary, and that the nation is a mere bystander at a marital spat.

The grotesque pantomime of domesticity that the Clintons perform in public is as preposterous as the portrait of Mrs. Clinton as an injured innocent. For some reason (upward mobility? just a guess) she has struck a Faustian bargain, choosing to live, for decades,

a life of fraudulent pretense.

This long training in mendacity has come in handy in her dissimulations about her roles in the \$100,000 cattle futures windfall (a bribe? no, beginner's luck, she says), in a land fraud and elusive billing records pertaining thereto, in cruelties and abuses of power in the Travel Office purge, in the lawlessness of her health care task force ("disobedience ... this type of conduct is reprehensible ... officials run amok," said a federal judge); to the hiring of Craig Livingston (keeper of the FBI files), and more.

Regarding her husband's intern-toy, Mrs. Clinton has been either willfully ignorant, itself a form of deceit, or, much more likely, her antic defenses of her husband (he's a victim of a vast right-wing conspiracy, leavened by Arkansas-phobia) have been lies.

Opposites may attract, but that did not happen when Bill met Hillary, so the nation should not take its bearings from her berserk moral compass. Rather, it must understand why impeachment, although perhaps not necessary given the president's abject and neutered status, was provided by the Founders to deal with an officeholder who acts "in such a manner as to render him unworthy of being any longer trusted." (Federalist 70)

Elliot Richardson resigned as attorney general rather than execute President Richard Nixon's order to fire special prosecutor Archibald Cox, and later said:

"There is a serious risk when you investigate corruption. You may do more harm than good if all you do is poke a stick in a muddy pool and stir up the mud without clarifying the water. ... Politicians govern their conduct in the light of past experiences."

Impeachment is a means of clarification for politicians who believe that anything is permitted that is not forbidden by criminal statutes or other "controlling legal authority."

Impeachment is not a "constitutional crisis." It is a re-

medial mechanism provided for political hygiene. The debacles that made Mr. Nixon and now Mr. Clinton eligible for impeachment are alike in being not about the incidents that precipitated them (a burglary, sex) but about the rule of law. The debacles are dissimilar in a way that makes Mr. Clinton's more pregnant with potential long-term civic debasement.

Mr. Nixon tried to survive by hiding evidence from the public. Mr. Clinton has tried that, too, but his primary strategy, advanced through compliant surrogates, has been to corrupt the public by encouraging indifference to evidence of brazen deceit about scabrous behavior.

John Adams said, "There never was yet a people who must not have somebody or something to represent the dignity of the state." Mr. Clinton's little legacy will be a quickened understanding of the indispensable nature of the sort of dignity from which he has been such a tawdry subtraction.

Washington Post Writers Group.

Abuse of Jews Does Not Justify Abuse of Palestinians

By Eitan Felner

JERUSALEM — Israeli society suffers from the syndrome of the abused child. That is the only reasonable answer to the frequently posed question of how a people that suffered so long, that was victimized for 3,000 years, can be indifferent to the suffering it inflicts on another people.

The state of Israel was formed against the backdrop of the most chilling act of genocide in modern history. Israel cannot escape that traumatic past. As in the case of an adult survivor of childhood abuse, a primal insecurity informs our perception of reality.

Every danger — whether real or imagined, large or small — is experienced in terms of

our long history of persecution.

Living in Israel, it is not hard to justify our self-perception as victims. Suicide bombings to Israeli cities have killed and maimed dozens of civilians to recent years. Israel remains in a state of war with half its neighbors. This reality is easily read in terms of our collective memory as victims.

Yet our identity as the eternal victim prevents us from realizing that today we are not only victims. Just as some victims of child abuse turn into victimizers as adults, we Israelis, having assumed a position of power over others, have ourselves become victimizers.

It is the syndrome of the abused child that informs the attitude of the Israeli public to human rights violations committed by our security forces in the Occupied Territories. Take, for example, the case of the public debate about torture to Israel.

The use of torture by the Israeli security service is routine. Thousands of Palestinian detainees are violently shaken, kept for days in excruciating positions, denied sleep for prolonged periods or subjected to extremes of noise, cold and filth. Israeli officials publicly acknowledge such practices.

Torture's stigma prompts most nations to deny any use of force in interrogations, but the Israeli public, at large, supports the use of torture as a legitimate means to defend security.

Israel's resort to collective forms of punishment provokes a similar response.

In the past 10 years, Israel has demolished more than 400 houses of family members of Palestinians suspected of violent acts against Israel. No public outcry has been raised about this policy, which has rendered homeless hundreds of innocent people, many of them children and the elderly.

Israeli public opinion has also remained indifferent to the blatantly discriminatory manner to which this policy is applied. Only Palestinians are subjected to collective punishments.

Four years ago, when 29 Palestinians were killed by an Israeli settler at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, Israel took seriously the fundamental legal principle that every person is responsible for his or her own acts. It did not take reprisals against innocent people, such as the family or neighbors of the perpetrator of the massacre.

Israel's repressive policies cannot be compared to the horrors of the Holocaust. Yet neither can our suffering in the past, however terrible, be used to excuse present wrongs.

The syndrome of the abused child only exacerbates the cycle of violence in the Middle East. The experience of occupation and dispossession has turned

Palestinians into the new generation of "abused children." As such, Palestinians often justify the sufferings caused by suicide bombs in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem by the affliction we cause to them. This in turn reinforces our self-perception as perpetual victims.

This cycle of victimhood has profound effects on the potential for a negotiated settlement of the conflict. A peace process has begun, yet a peace based on human rights violations is fragile at its core. Collective punishment, brutality and needless humiliation diminish the willingness for reconciliation and compromise.

Milestones are often an occasion for introspection. This year Israel celebrated its 50th anniversary and the international community is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a timely opportunity to recognize and begin to address our syndrome.

We must not forget the past, but neither can we let our painful history make us complacent toward the suffering we cause to others.

The writer is executive director of B'Tselem, the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, and a former chairperson of the Israeli section of Amnesty International. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Stonewalling on the Covenant

By Ron Pundak

TEL AVIV — The Middle East peace process is going through rough times. The outcome rests for now in the hands of Benjamin Netanyahu. His decision to allow negotiations based on an American initiative calling for Israel to pull out of 13 percent of the West Bank is a step in the right direction.

But it must be coupled with a radical change of attitude toward the Palestinians. Israel must send a message of reconciliation and coexistence. Unfortunately, the Netanyahu government is still engaged in a campaign to distort this message.

The Israeli government's intention is that Palestinians do not want peace and that their real goal is to destroy Israel. The main evidence of this is said to be the notorious Palestinian Covenant, written more than 30 years ago, which is filled with clauses denying Israel's right to exist.

Israel accuses Yasser Arafat and his Palestine Liberation Organization of not fulfilling their commitment to nullify those articles of the covenant that deny Israel's existence and thereby contradict the goal of achieving peace. The obvious answer, according to this logic, is to halt the peace negotiations.

It is high time for an honest assessment of the covenant and its amendment. As a participant in the negotiations in Oslo from day one in 1993, I can testify to the truth.

At the outset of the negotiations, Mr. Arafat sent Yitzhak Rabin, who was then Israel's prime minister, written confirmation that the agreement with Israel would supersede all those clauses in the covenant

that challenged Israel's right to exist in peace and security and conflicted with the PLO's new determination to solve all conflicts peacefully.

In the same letter, Mr. Arafat also undertook to win official approval from the Palestine National Council for amendments to the covenant. This letter was drafted with the cooperation of the Israeli government and was sent only after Mr. Rabin had approved it.

In April 1996, the council overwhelmingly approved a resolution endorsing Mr. Arafat's letter and empowering the council's legal committee to draft a new covenant. The resolution was approved by the council only after its contents were confirmed by representatives of the Israeli government.

Both the government and the Clinton administration publicly welcomed the decision as a fulfillment of the demand to amend the covenant.

Then the Israeli right, including the new government led by Mr. Netanyahu, attacked the decision as unsatisfactory, arguing that it did not specify which clauses in the covenant had been annulled.

So, within the framework of the Hebron negotiations in January 1997, Israel made its approval conditional on Mr. Arafat's agreement to an article obliging the PLO to complete the revising of the covenant.

Consequently, to January 1998, Mr. Arafat sent President Bill Clinton a letter of clarification in which he detailed all of the clauses that had been

annulled. The same clauses appeared in a list prepared by the secretary of the Israeli cabinet. That list is unequivocal.

In fact, only a few of the original articles of the decades-old Palestinian covenant remain intact. To calm the skeptics, Mr. Arafat also pointed out that these changes would be reflected in all future publications of the covenant.

The Netanyahu government reacted with scorn. It now demands, as a precondition to the next territorial withdrawal, that the Palestine National Council endorse Mr. Arafat's letter to Mr. Clinton. This is a transparent ploy, since the council's sweeping decision, made in 1996, should be enough.

The Clinton administration has proposed a compromise: that the PLO executive council ratify Mr. Arafat's letter. The Palestinians have agreed to this idea but the Israeli government has not. No wonder the Palestinian opposition has reached the conclusion, perhaps justified, that Mr. Netanyahu is intent on leading the two nations into yet another war.

The writer was an Israeli negotiator in the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Oslo in 1993. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed "Letters to the Editor" and contain the writer's signature, name and full address. Letters should be brief and are subject to editing. We cannot be responsible for the return of unsolicited manuscripts.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Marconi Trials

LONDON — Some important experiments have been made with the Marconi system of wireless telegraphy between the Royal yacht Osborne and Osborne House. Perfect signals have been sent both ways. During the ten days of the trials no hitch occurred from first to last. Numerous messages passed between the Queen and the Prince of Wales and between the Prince and a number of other members of the Royal family. Signor Marconi had charge of the trials.

1948: Aloha Shirts

TOKYO — Japanese editors sneered in unison at "sloppy, shallow-minded youths who wear sports shirts hanging outside their trousers." Editorial writers struck out at the no-tuck-in cliche. "Aloha shirts are the fashion in Hawaii and on the West Coast of the United States," it added, but "they are not accepted in the eastern section of North America and even in South American cities like Buenos Aires, where correct clothing is in fashion."

1923: De Valera's Son

DUBLIN — De Valera, who is interned in prison, is continuing his election campaign through his eleven-year-old son Vivian. A Republican rally was held under the Parnell monument in O'Connell street, where the lad, wearing glee spectacles and looking the picture of his father,

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OPINION/LETTERS

Flash Points to Watch as the News From Asia Worsens

By Jim Hoagland

ASPEN, Colorado — Asia's time of living dangerously is far from over.

A year of economic calamity has erased a generation of prosperity in some Pacific Rim nations. The financial collapse has set the stage for more turmoil and conflict, challenging U.S. interests across a region that many Americans recently saw as a new El Dorado.

This assessment comes from some of America's leading experts on Asia. Gathered here by The Aspen Institute for a workshop over a long August weekend, government officials, academics, economists and other professional analysts fashioned a surprisingly detailed consensus on Asian flash points ahead.

If they are right, these headlines likely to come from Asia in future months:

• Starvation stalks Indonesia and North Korea.

• Indonesia's food distribution system, once largely in the hands of ethnic Chinese traders, has been dismantled by the flight of those

traders after pogroms directed against them. The government's subsidizing of the price of rice has led to massive smuggling to neighboring countries with higher prices. The economic collapse has sunk half of Indonesia's population deep into poverty.

North Korea's food shortages also continue to be acute, according to a U.S. official who has canvassed relief organizations working in North Korea and a number of intelligence agencies. Estimates of starvation deaths in North Korea over the past three years range from 2 million — about 10 percent of the population — to 6 million. Relief organizations that have grown weary of North Korea's Stalinist restrictions may soon suspend or reduce their efforts, creating more pressure on the erratic Pyongyang regime.

• The U.S.-negotiated agreement that froze North Korea's nuclear weapons development in 1994 is coming apart.

Japan, South Korea and the U.S. Congress have all had second thoughts about sending more economic aid and fuel oil to Pyongyang as the deal mandates. This reluctance had formed before the discovery this month that North Korea was working on a new secret facility that may violate the accord.

That discovery could be the nail in the coffin of the agreement, which pulled North Korea and the United States back from military conflict.

• The credibility of the International Monetary Fund and other multilateral organizations suffers great damage in Asia.

Russia's devaluation of the ruble days after receiving assurances of a new \$23 billion rescue package points up this danger.

Asian countries have watched the United States and Germany push the IMF to bend its rules for Russia, overlooking Moscow's failure to live up to conditions the IMF has imposed with severity on Asian nations.

The decision by the U.S. Treasury not to take a leadership role in rescue financing or debt rescheduling for Indonesia shows a lack of U.S. strategic interest in the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Indonesia's membership in the Association of South East Asian Nations and other regional organizations, as well as in OPEC, has not helped alleviate its burdens. ASEAN's pretensions and its underlying ineffectiveness have been exposed in a particularly harsh fashion by the crisis.

• Nuclear testing by India and Pakistan alters the global order.

Another thesis argued here was that in the Pacific, economic, political and military power is rapidly shifting from Japan to China. One sign: Although Japan has provided billions of dollars in financial aid to the distressed Asian countries, praise is lavished only on China for responsible behavior and Japan's efforts are ignored.

Some participants voiced unease at the imbalance in the Clinton administration's ardent attentions to Beijing and its constant badgering of Tokyo. Others pronounced this as the inevitable or desirable new order.

For me, the workshop was eye-opening and alarming. Asia, where the United States has fought two unsuccessful ground wars since World War II, has returned to being a region of unpredictability and danger rather than one of immediate opportunity and long-term stability.

The discussions left me pondering two overarching questions that may be too important to leave to the experts: Were the last 20 years of prosperity and relative calm an Asian aberration? And why does Asia seem so consistently to surprise even those who pay the most attention to it?

There are no easy or quick answers to these questions. But a non-expert comes away from this exchange of views feeling there is something in the American angle of vision of Asia that is flawed, but which Asia's reality is compelled to correct from time to time.

The Washington Post

Would-Be Teachers Who Know Nothing

By Sheila Schwartz

NEW YORK — The failings of "student centered" learning have received a good deal of attention recently. Much of the criticism is just. But this methodology is a relatively small part of the problem with America's current educational programs.

The inadequate liberal arts training many prospective teachers receive and the low caliber of the people who choose to become teachers are more serious problems.

I retired last spring after teaching English education for 35 years. Many of my graduate students had majored in

MEANWHILE

English. In theory, then, they should have had a firm grasp of language arts and literature. But this was often not the case. Over time I saw a steady decline in the quality of these future teachers.

Many had writing skills that ranged from depressing to horrifying. A disturbing number could not write a lucid sentence or paragraph.

They did not take kindly to my insistence that they master the fundamentals.

"Nobody ever made such a fuss about these things before," more than one aggrieved student complained. "What difference does it make how we say it if we make our points about the content?"

Others argued that it was unfair to penalize them if their computer spelling checkers had failed to pick up errors. One student, whose writing was full of grammatical mistakes and misspellings, marched into my office with her husband from West Point — in dress uniform, his chest covered with ribbons — because her feelings had been hurt by my insistence on correct spelling.

In one of my courses, the curriculum included classics such as "The Scarlet Letter," "Moby Dick," "Huckleberry Finn" and "To Kill a Mockingbird," which are taught in high schools. Some of my students last semester objected to the reading list. "Must we read 'Moby Dick'?" asked one. "It's too long and boring." "It's not fair to make us read 'Slaughterhouse Five,'" said another. "It's too hard to understand."

One student, who belonged to a local fundamentalist group, thought that Elie Wiesel's "Night," "The Diary of Anne Frank" and George Orwell's "1984" would not be "good for" the teenagers she would someday be teaching and urged me to substitute "more cheerful" works.

Another insisted that the theme of "To Kill a Mockingbird" was that "all people are basically nice." When I questioned that conclusion, she burst into tears and left the class, and I was reprimanded by the assistant dean for having standards that were "too high."

We seem to have reached the point described in Kurt Vonnegut's futuristic short story "Harrison Bergeron" in which everyone must be dragged down to the lowest common denominator because, in a democracy, we don't want any hurt feelings.

The poor quality of teachers is a prime reason that U.S. public schools are in such bad shape. Why should the self-esteem of mediocre teacher candidates be placed above the needs of the children they are being trained to teach?

The writer recently retired from the State University of New York at New Paltz, where she taught English education. She contributed this to The New York Times.

U.S.-Russia Summit: Clinton's Big Chance

By Michael McFaul

LOS ANGELES — Most Americans believe that President Bill Clinton faced the most consequential moment of his career when he agreed to testify before Kenneth Starr's grand jury. In fact, a much bigger day for Mr. Clinton and the rest of the world comes in two weeks when the American president meets with President Boris Yeltsin in Moscow.

By this time, Russia very well might be in the throes of a major market meltdown, which in turn might trigger political upheaval on a scale similar to Indonesia's. Unlike Indonesia, however, Russia still has 10,000 nuclear weapons. The gravity of Russia's crisis makes this September summit meeting one of the most important foreign policy missions of Mr. Clinton's presidency.

The president's first task is to ensure that the focus of the meeting is on the big picture. The Cold War issues of arms control, European security, regional conflicts and human rights cannot be allowed to dominate either the tone or substance of the meeting.

While Russian ratification of the START-2 treaty would be an important achievement and Russian concessions regarding trade with Iran would be welcome, Mr. Clinton must make the preservation of markets and democracy in Russia his main mission.

This will be difficult. Russia's economic problems and its need for U.S. aid are once again under siege. Despite International Monetary Fund assistance, the Russian government has had to effectively devalue the ruble. A sudden rise in prices triggered by the devaluation may stimulate even greater mass social unrest than exists today.

In the panic, trade union officials and Communist Party leaders fear that they might lose the support of their constituencies, which would turn to more radical political groups in times of crisis. Some in Russia have urged President Yeltsin to con-

sider instituting emergency rule. In this highly charged atmosphere, Clinton pronouncements about the importance of START-2 or the evils of trading with Iran will look trivial.

Instead, Mr. Clinton needs to deliver messages about the importance of capitalism and democracy in Russia and

Urging the preservation of markets and democracy in Russia must be the American president's main mission.

ideas and programs to assist the Russians in achieving these ends.

The Clinton administration demonstrated leadership in responding aggressively to Russia's recent financial crisis. Mr. Clinton must now follow up this bailout package with a tough-love message that no future bailouts will be forthcoming unless fundamental reforms are finally undertaken.

Mr. Clinton must call on the Russian government to get serious about closing bankrupt enterprises, to sell the assets it still holds in the hands of enterprises and to make credible commitments to implement its anti-crisis program, including a more concerted effort to collect taxes from both corporations and individuals.

After delivering this blunt message to Mr. Yeltsin and his government, Mr. Clinton must provide creative solutions to help the Russian government avoid bankruptcy. More expensive IMF bailout packages offer only temporary solutions. Rather, Mr. Clinton should explore the possibility of a massive debt swap of short-term Russian Treasury bills for long-term U.S. Treasury bills. A sovereign debt swap

would be better than direct transfers of money to the Russian government because the market will know that the money will not be squandered.

Mr. Clinton needs to compel Mr. Yeltsin to think boldly. At this stage Mr. Yeltsin has no good options but must choose between bad and worse.

Mr. Clinton's message regarding Russian democracy must be equally blunt. While imperfect, Russia has made progress in consolidating an electoral democracy and Mr. Clinton should recognize publicly these achievements.

However, Mr. Clinton must deliver a private but firm message to Mr. Yeltsin and other Russian leaders about the negative consequences of circumventing the democratic process — an idea that has become increasingly popular in elite Moscow circles as the prospect of major economic downfall becomes more likely.

Authoritarian rule is wrong for Russia and any attempt to implement it would fail.

Many Americans have grown weary of Russia as achievements have been few and headaches many. But now is not the time to give up on Russia. Only seven years since the Soviet collapse, Russia's revolution has by no means ended. Russia's current leaders are still committed to developing a market economy and a democratic polity, and it is in the vital national interest of the United States to ensure that this trajectory continues.

No one has a greater interest in promoting the consolidation of democracy and capitalism in Russia than President Clinton. If Russia eventually succeeds in becoming a member of the international community of democratic states, Mr. Clinton will have secured his place in history as an important foreign policy president.

The writer, professor of political science at Stanford University, is a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He contributed this column to the Los Angeles Times.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

About Clinton

In the Anglo-American democratic tradition, the great principle of the rule of law means that the people who are responsible for government are not above the law. It is a perversion of that principle to treat the sins of such people as crimes, or to put a person into the position of having to confess publicly to sin in order to avoid committing a crime.

Such a thing might have seemed reasonable to the Holy Inquisition. Given human fallibility, it is not a possible basis for democratic government.

PHILIP ALLOTT, Cambridge, England.

What has the "moral minority" in the United States — the Christian ayatollahs and others — done to the dignity, integrity and the reputation of the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law? They have reduced the

great principles of the separation of powers and the independence of the judiciary and the judicial process to the level of a sleazy cabaret.

Kenneth Starr, a pontificating humbug of an unconstructed Puritan, solemnly asks the president of the United States about the details of his sexual life. Mr. Starr and his allies have made the United States the laughingstock of the entire planet.

GERARD MULHOLLAND, Chevilly-Larue, France.

President Clinton may have suffered "a lapse in judgment" but the Republicans have set up a potentially disastrous situation for themselves in the November congressional elections.

Once again, this time through the misguided offices of Kenneth Starr, the Republicans have become identified with a "moral majority" that in reality does not exist in America. Moreover, most Americans demonstrated an

aversion to such a concept in the 1992 and 1996 elections. Mr. Starr has relentlessly pursued a private matter of the president's with taxpayers' dollars, for which neither he nor the Republican Party will be forgiven.

Do not underestimate the political abilities of President Clinton. In November heads will roll, and they will not be Democratic ones.

M.J. MAURER, Rome.

Regarding "Leave Clinton Alone" (Letters, Aug. 11):

The majority of the letter writers missed the point: President Bill Clinton's extramarital affairs are irrelevant. The point is that Mr. Clinton is a congenital liar.

OLGA PICURI, Kibiberg, Switzerland.

President Clinton has well earned the sobriquet the Great Equivocator.

WILLIAM GREENWAY, Paris.

Praise From Beyond?

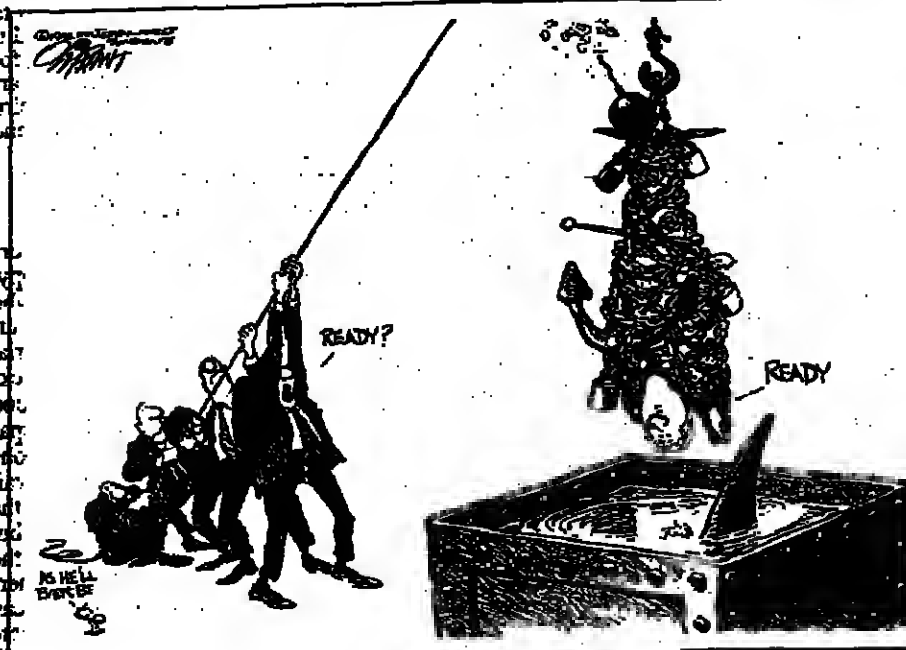
Regarding "Saga of a Statue: The Struggles of Rodin's Balzac" (Features, Aug. 15):

How could Baudelaire have praised Rodin's statue of Balzac — first displayed in 1898 — since by that time the poet had been dead for more than 30 years?

I suspect that he used a medium. Spiritism was widely practiced in Paris at the turn of the last century.

MARK GOODMAN, Paris.

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Investors in Russia Funds Grope in the Dark

By Edward Wyatt
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — For the second time in a year, mutual funds that invest in emerging markets have been snared in a foreign financial crisis.

And once again, their managers are trying to value securities for which there is little real market, or in some cases no market at all.

This time, Russian securities are at issue. So far, the Russian government has provided almost no information to help portfolio managers gauge how much their investments are worth. That has left some mutual fund managers to place widely different values on their Russian securities, possibly skewing the real impact of Russia's decision on Monday to allow its currency to fall in value and to call a debt moratorium.

The full report may be yet to come for investors, who have been pulling money out of emerging-market debt and equity funds in recent weeks, according to AMG Data Services, which tracks mutual fund cash flows.

This is the third time in five years that investors in emerging-market funds have been stymied by an upheaval in what had been a rapidly growing economy.

In addition to a decline brought on by a devaluation of certain currencies

in Southeast Asia last year, emerging-market funds plunged in late 1994 after Mexico devalued the peso, leading to a tumble in most Latin American stock and bond funds.

The uncertainty is greatest now in portfolios that hold short-term Russian government notes, known as GKOs.

After the Russian government decided on Monday to restructure the notes and to allow the ruble to fall by as

much as 34 percent, the T. Rowe Price Emerging Markets Bond fund cut about 15 percent from the market value of its Russian Treasury bills.

That was only half of the decline recorded by the Lexington Troika Dialog Russia fund, which reduced the value of its GKO investments by about a third. Each fund could only estimate the value of these holdings at the end of each day, because the securities are not

trading, while the government irons out the details of a debt-restructuring plan.

The uncertainty is not likely to clear up soon. On Wednesday, Russia said it would delay a debt announcement until Monday. It is expected to convert the short-term holdings, which were due to be redeemed by the end of next year, into long-term bonds that are redeemed over the next four or five years, fund managers say.

"The problem with the restructuring is that we don't know what we are going to get," said Michael Conellus, manager of the T. Rowe Price fund. "If we get ruble-denominated debt, that would be negative."

That, he explained, was because fund managers would be selling rubles to hedge their currency risk, perhaps leading to a collapse in the currency's value.

If, however, the three-month GKOs are exchanged for five-year, dollar-denominated Treasury bonds, Mr. Conellus said, "the question becomes, 'How comfortable are we holding the longer-term bonds?'"

Emerging markets traders and bankers said there had been speculation the Russian government would pay foreign investors about 11 cents on the dollar for their GKOs, while do-

Russian Meltdown

Bond funds with large holdings in Russia plunged on Monday after the government devalued its currency. Stock funds fell also — generally about half as much as bonds — with the Lexington Troika Dialog fund losing 13.5 percent of its value, putting its losses in 1998 at more than 76 percent.

EQUITY FUNDS	YEAR-TO-DATE RETURN	MONDAY'S RETURN	SHARE OF ASSETS IN RUSSIA
Lexington Troika Dialog Russia	-77.5%	-13.5%	
Vontobel Eastern European	-32.8	-3.5	
AIM Developing Markets A	-29.7	-2.8	
BOND FUNDS	YEAR-TO-DATE RETURN	MONDAY'S RETURN	SHARE OF ASSETS IN RUSSIA
Scudder Emerging Markets Income	-22.0	-6.9	
AIM Global High Income A	-21.1	-5.9	
T. Rowe Price Emerging Mkts. Bond	-19.6	-5.5	

Sources: Upper Analytical Services; Bloomberg Financial Markets; fund company statements

The New York Times

See FUNDS, Page 15

Russia, Now Outcast, Recalls Better Times

Downfall Was Quick in World Credit Markets

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — Alexander Livshits, a deputy presidential chief of staff and former Russian finance minister, pointed to a small, framed certificate hanging in a lonely corner of his cavernous office. It recorded a March 1997 Russian Eurobond issue, worth 2 million Deutsche marks (\$1.11 million) at 9 percent interest.

At the time, Russia was an enthusiastic new customer on world credit markets. Not only was the central government tapping international loans, but executives from the major banks and big corporations of the young market economy were trotting off to London and New York to float bonds and stocks.

But now, after the shock of devaluation and debt postponement, Russia has become an outcast. Its credit has been besmirched, and the Western brokerage houses are dismissing employees.

On Wednesday, the Russian government was faced with a new firestorm of overseas criticism when it appeared to be on the verge of discriminating against foreign investors holding domestic Treasury bills.

Mr. Livshits, who has resigned from the presidential administration, said that "it will take years" for Russia to return to the halcyon days of the 9 percent Eurobonds, which he showcased as Russia's globe-trotting financial emissary.

To stave off a looming financial collapse, Russia announced a devaluation of the ruble on Monday, a 90-day pause in repaying loans of private banks to Western creditors and a restructuring of the government's domestic debt, stretching out the repayment.

The harsh measures raised doubts about whether Russia and its banks would repay all their obligations. The government has insisted that it will not default, but has acknowledged there will be delays.

The impact was felt immediately. The credit ratings of Russia and its regions and private businesses all plunged this week. Standard & Poor's rated some major Russian banks as

"Not Meaningful," its lowest possible assessment.

One Moscow-based bond trader said, "This will absolutely shut down the flow of capital into Russia. This is a massive blow to confidence in Russia."

It could also be yet another blow to the real economy. Russian companies have been starved for capital to rebuild and modernize. The stock market, potentially one source of capital, has collapsed; and now another possible channel for capital, overseas borrowing, is also being shut off.

Without capital, the firms may languish, postponing Russia's recovery from a long slump that has been as severe as the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Earlier, the Asian financial turmoil made overseas investors far more wary of emerging markets like Russia. But the latest decisions by the government of President Boris Yeltsin gave them a new jolt, especially the debt moratorium and a vague plan to put off repaying short-term government domestic debt.

Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko and his aides compounded the anxieties in recent days with a wobbly series of explanations of how Russia would handle the domestic Treasury bills.

On Monday, Mr. Kiriyenko promised to reveal a plan on Wednesday, turning the bonds into some kind of new securities. But then he faced a revolt among foreign investors.

At issue are about \$40 billion in domestic Treasury bills maturing this year and next, known as GKOs. The bonds are widely held by Russian banks and regions, as well as by foreign investors.

On Tuesday, word began circulating that the government would convert the bonds held by Russians on more favorable terms than those held by foreigners.

The reaction was immediate. Credit Suisse First Boston denounced the terms as "massive discrimination," saying that Russia was planning to give the foreigners only a third of what Russians get.

They were giving the foreigners

See RUSSIA, Page 15

Washington on the Dock In WTO Shrimp Dispute

Will U.S. Defy a Ruling by World Trade Body?

By Anne Swardson
Washington Post Service

GENEVA — The next big United States trade dispute is quietly swimming in the world's oceans, but it is about to surface.

In the five years since the United States supported the creation of the World Trade Organization to resolve international trade disputes, the longstanding question always has been: Will the United States comply if a big decision goes against it?

The question arose in 1996, when the European Union filed a complaint with the Geneva-based trade regulatory body over the Helms-Burton law, which prohibits other countries from doing certain kinds of business with Cuba. The United States said openly it would not change the law even if the trade body overruled it. But the case was dropped after the two sides compromised.

Now the WTO is about to issue a final ruling on a U.S. law that requires countries that export shrimp to the United States to use a special device on shrimp nets. The device prevents sea turtles, which are endangered, from becoming entangled in the nets and drowning.

India, Pakistan, Malaysia and Thailand have challenged the law, saying it unfairly discriminates against their shrimp exports. They won in the early stages of the WTO process, and the United States filed a final appeal that is expected to be decided in September.

The issue is a sensitive one, for many reasons. Five species of sea turtles, which can live as long as 80 years and whose females lay their eggs on the beach where they were born, have suffered sharp declines in number because of shrimp in recent decades.

Environmental groups, which say 150,000 sea turtles die in shrimp nets each year, are lobbying hard for a decision favorable to the United States; the Web pages of nearly every major environmental organization urge Americans to write the WTO.

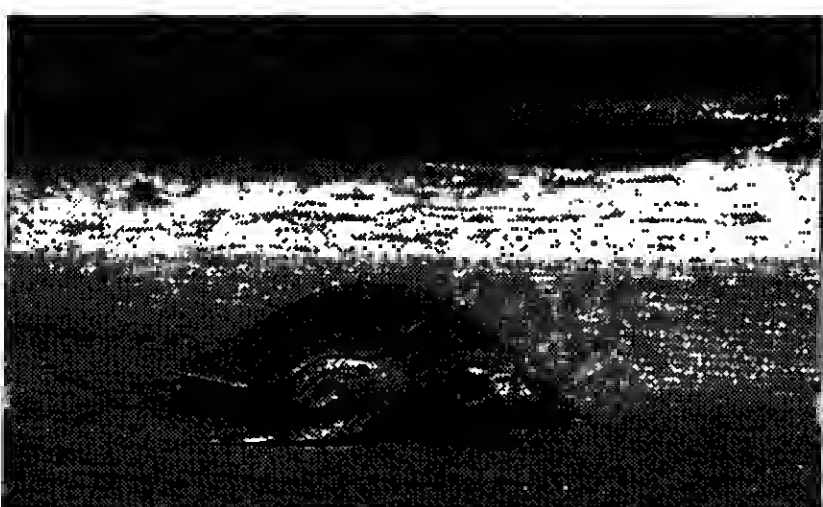
Critics of U.S. environmental groups contend that they lack hair-raising horror stories at home, and so are extending their efforts to the rest of the world, in part to encourage donations. "The WTO is such an easy target," one American critic said. "The flap has the perfect protagonist, the sea turtle, and the perfect antagonist, a faceless international organization." In their pub-

licity campaigns, environmentalists sound the same theme as some congressional Republicans did during the Helms-Burton debate: International rules are undermining domestic sovereignty. Or, as the Web page of the Sea Turtles Restoration Project puts it, "Why should we let a bunch of World Trade Organization bureaucrats determine the fate of our Earth?"

Environmental groups, exercise significant political power over trade. Using the same kind of arguments, environmentalists and other advocacy groups were influential earlier this year in persuading the Clinton administration to back away from an international accord regulating investment in developing countries. Other countries opposed the accord as well, in part because of their own environmental lobbies, and it was shelved.

The turtles case also illustrates a hard fact of today's trade disputes: They often have little to do with traditional trade barriers — the tariffs and quotas nations impose on each other's goods to protect their domestic industries. Instead, many trade wars are fought over hormones in beef, or genetically modified foodstuffs — or sea turtles. Yet they are argued and settled by lawyers and economists, not medical experts or scientists.

"You are talking about some animals that are on the brink of extinction, and the technology to save them is in the



A sea turtle coming ashore in Mexico. Five species of turtles have suffered sharp declines in population as a result of nets used to catch shrimp.

hundreds of dollars," said David Schorr, director of sustainable commerce programs for the World Wildlife Fund. "Yet the WTO so clearly says trade comes first."

The turtle controversy also reflects the ambivalence of the U.S. government. Even though the Clinton administration fully supports the WTO as the settler of trade disputes — U.S. law was changed to comply with WTO decisions in three smaller cases this year and last year — it also is strongly committed to the environment.

The United States probably will not change its regulations if it loses the sea turtles appeal, according to environmental and other sources. Though the administration is divided about what course to follow, the strongest option is to retain the ban on shrimp imports and pay whatever penalties are imposed.

U.S. Presses Japan on Film Sales

WASHINGTON — The United States told Japan on Wednesday to be more aggressive in removing barriers that block access by foreign companies to its photographic film market.

The U.S. trade representative, Charlene Barshefsky, commenting on a periodic review of the Japanese photo film market, said that some progress had been made in providing access to foreign companies but that more work was needed to meet Tokyo's promises.

"We will continue to press Japan through formal and informal means to reform its archaic distribution structure and address practices that unreasonably restrain trade," Ms. Barshefsky added.

The United States began monitoring Japan's photo film market last February after it lost a landmark case in the World

Trade Organization. It was seen as a major setback for U.S. efforts to open up the Japanese economy.

Washington had charged that the Japanese government took steps to thwart foreign access to the market, in a case that pitted Eastman Kodak Co. of the United States against Fuji Photo Film Co. of Japan.

Fuji argued that Kodak's lack of penetration into the specialty store market was a result of the American company's marketing mistakes, not Fuji's business practices.

The report released Wednesday found that the availability of foreign film had doubled over the past three years in nontraditional outlets such as supermarkets, department stores, convenience stores and other nonspecialist outlets.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates	Aug. 19	Libor-Libor Rates	Aug. 19
Australian \$	1.252	1-month	5.00
British pound	1.685	3-month	5.00
Canadian dollar	1.252	6-month	5.00
French franc	16.667	9-month	5.00
German mark	1.366	12-month	5.00
Italian lira	2.366	1-month	5.00
Japanese yen	109.00	3-month	5.00
Netherlands guilder	2.366	6-month	5.00
New Zealand dollar	1.252	9-month	5.00
Portuguese escudo	200.48	12-month	5.00
Spanish peseta	166.67	1-month	5.00
Swedish krona	10.36	3-month	5.00
Swiss franc	1.455	6-month	5.00
Taiwan dollar	24.63	9-month	5.00
Thai baht	54.80	12-month	5.00
U.S. dollar	1.000	1-month	5.00

Changes in London, New York, Paris and Zurich. All rates are in U.S. dollars. All rates are in U.S. dollars. All rates are in U.S. dollars.

Other Dollar Values

Forward Rates

Source: ING Bank (Amsterdam); KBC Bank (Brussels); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Banque de France (Paris); Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); IMF (DCO). Other data from The Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

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EUROPE

Olivetti Faces Inquiry Under New Disclosure Rules

Bloomberg News
MILAN — Italian regulators said Wednesday they were taking on Olivetti SpA, the country's second-largest telecommunications company, in the first test of new rules designed to instill U.S.-style transparency in Italy's murky corporate world.

Securities regulator Consob said it would investigate Olivetti's 7.4 percent share surge Tuesday, which

it described as "anomalous." The shares rose after Silvio Scaglia, chief executive of Olivetti's mobile phone unit, Omnitel Pronto Italia SpA, revealed July's growth in mobile phone subscriptions at a Mannheim AG analyst meeting in Düsseldorf, without informing the Italian market.

Mr. Scaglia, the chief executive of Omnitel, announced that his company had signed 500,000 new sub-

scribers during July, bringing its total to 4.4 million. Omnitel is Europe's fourth-largest mobile phone company. Olivetti owns it through a joint venture with Mannesmann.

The number of new subscribers exceeded analysts' expectations. It suggested that Omnitel was making inroads into the market share of its bigger competitor, Telecom Italia Mobile SpA.

Consob will try to determine whether disclosure rules were violated. Consob may also inquire about possible insider trading.

This will be the first investigation of its kind since the adoption of a corporate reform law on July 17. The law was drafted by the director-general of the treasury, Mario Draghi.

Olivetti had no comment on the investigation.

Olivetti's shares traded at around

4,000 lire (\$2.25) for most of the day Tuesday. Then, at about 2:30 P.M., they shot up. By the time the Milan exchange closed, at 5 P.M., the shares were up 291 lire, at a record high of 4,230 lire.

On Wednesday, Olivetti's shares closed lower at 4,120 lire.

Olivetti's behavior was not unusual. Companies have routinely announced earnings at meetings with selected investors or analysts. Companies have sometimes barred journalists from such meetings. Press releases have often followed later, if at all.

The corporate reform law of last month seeks to change that. A spokesman for Consob said that Omnitel "clearly" violated Article 114.

That article says that companies must inform the Consob and the Italian Exchange at least 15 minutes before releasing important informa-

tion while the market is open. "It is clear at this point that communication rules have been broken," the Consob spokesman said.

"But what we are looking at is the fact of anomalous share movements, and possibilities that something else may have happened here."

The penalty for violating this rule can be a fine of 10 million lire to 200 million lire. These would be symbolic amounts for a company like Olivetti.

Insider trading, however, would be an offense punishable by stiffer fines or even prison sentences.

The Olivetti case is also the first such inquiry since Luigi Spaventa, the former chairman of the bank Mover dei Paschi di Siena SpA, took over as chairman of Consob. He replaced Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa in May.

KKR Set to Acquire Hoechst Paint Unit

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
FRANKFURT — Hoechst AG said Wednesday that it had agreed to sell its Herberts paint unit to Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. for \$1.7 billion and that second-quarter net income had surged 80 percent on asset sales.

For Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the acquisition would be its biggest European investment to date, and it said more deals were in the offing. A general partner at KKR, Clifford Robbins, said the deal signaled a sharper focus by the buyout specialist on Europe, where corporate restructuring is creating major opportunities.

"KKR has been quite active in Europe and expects to be even more so," he said.

"We feel there are a lot of opportunities to pursue in Europe and we do have a pipeline of a variety of things that we are looking at seriously."

Hoechst's shares rose 70 pfennigs, or 0.8 percent, to 81.50 DM (\$45.23), on the higher-than-expected earnings and on the view the company was fulfilling its goal of shifting into higher-margin businesses.

Hoechst's net income for the three months ended June 30 rose 80 percent to 693 million DM, up from profit of 384 million DM in the same period a year earlier. Hoechst attributed the big increase to one-time gains from sales of subsidiaries.

Sales fell 22 percent to 11.44 billion DM. Hoechst said that revenue had been by the Asian economic

crisis as well as by the absence of revenue from the companies it had sold.

The company had previously warned that 1998 would be a difficult year.

"Additionally, we face challenges posed by the changes and discontinuity — acquisitions, divestitures, spin-offs — underlying the ongoing transformation of Hoechst into a life sciences group," said the chief executive, Juergen Dornann.

Hoechst is shifting away from bulk chemicals, an industry that has traditionally fluctuated sharply along with the business cycle.

While Herberts is profitable, KKR, the biggest U.S. buyout firm, said the division could grow better "with an entrepreneurial focus."

"The earnings top expectations, but more importantly it looks as if the company is finally fulfilling its promises and concentrating on its core business" of pharmaceuticals, said Thilo Steiger, a manager at Axa Fondmanagement in Wiesbaden, Germany. (Bloomberg, AP, Reuters)

Demand for Gold Rebounds

Bloomberg News
LONDON — Demand for gold worldwide rose 50 percent in the three months ended June 30 from the previous quarter, although it was still 9 percent lower than the same period in 1997, the World Gold Council said Wednesday.

East Asia's economic woes more than halved global gold consumption in the first three months of the year as government-organized collections of jewelry by countries such as South Korea made those nations net sellers of gold as they bid to raise cash. Gold is trading at \$285.50 an ounce.

Kuwait Wants More OPEC Oil Cuts

Bloomberg News
KUWAIT CITY — OPEC must cut oil production further at its meeting in November to reduce a glut that has left oil prices near their lowest in a decade, Kuwait's oil minister, Sheikh Nasser al-Sabah, said Wednesday.

In an interview, the minister threatened to lift his nation's output unless Venezuela adheres to its commitment to cut oil production.

Both countries promised to cut production in June as part of a pact by the 11-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and three nations outside the group to slash world oil output by 4 percent.

OPEC could collapse unless its members adhere to their promises, Sheikh Sabah said.

His comments suggest both a new willingness of OPEC members to cut oil output further and a frustration that the reductions made so far have failed to boost prices to near the \$17 a barrel price some ministers expected to see after the June agreement. At \$12.21 a barrel on Wednesday, Brent crude oil prices are half of last year's peak price.

"Does Venezuela want to continue violating quotas? Let them go

ahead and we will see who will suffer," Sheikh Sabah said.

He added that Kuwait itself could increase oil output to almost 2.7 million barrels a day, 35 percent more than its current production, if Venezuela wants to fight for market share.

Sheikh Sabah also said that Kuwait plans to allow foreign oil companies to develop its oil fields for the first time within six months.

TV Mail for Cable & Wireless

Reuters
LONDON — Britain's largest cable group, Cable & Wireless Communications PLC, on Wednesday unveiled an interactive TV service to compete with British Interactive Broadcasting, a joint venture of British Sky Broadcasting Group PLC and British Telecommunications PLC.

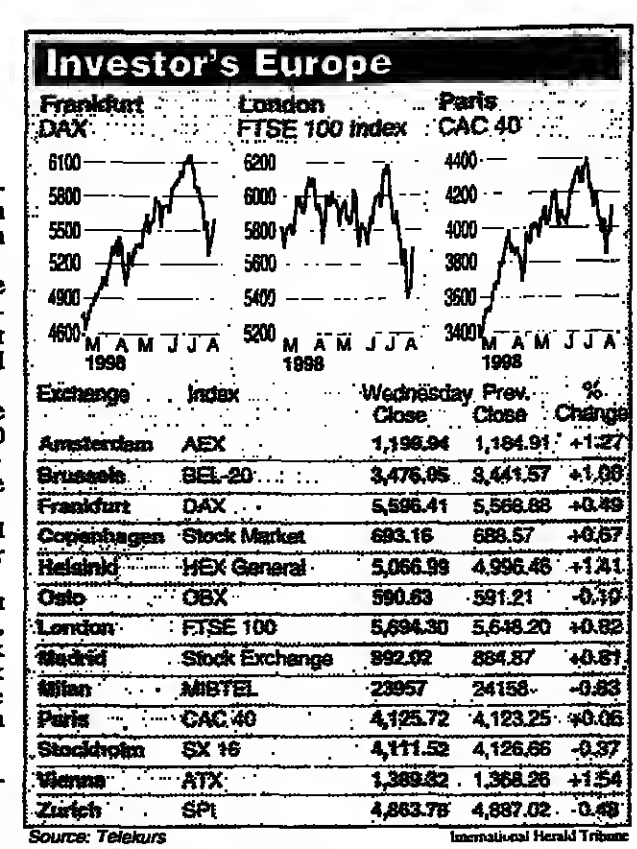
Cable & Wireless is hoping that the new, so-called TV-Mail service that it is setting up with several partners will allow it to win a share of a market that some analysts estimate could be worth \$7 billion (\$11.3 billion) by 2008 for

the cable industry alone.

TV Mail will be based on Internet technology and feature high-speed retail, entertainment and information services alongside a 200-channel digital television service that Cable & Wireless plans to launch in 1999.

The move is part of a broader battle for customers as digital services are rolled out on satellite, cable and terrestrial platforms over the next few months.

Cable & Wireless said it was working with Barclays Bank PLC, British Airways PLC and other companies to develop services.



Very briefly:

- Fried. Krupp AG Hoechst-Krupp, the German industrial conglomerate that is merging with Thyssen AG, reported that its profit roughly doubled in the first six months of the year, to 411 million Deutsche marks (\$228 million), amid solid growth in sales and new orders.
 - Elf Aquitaine, the French oil company, was urged by its largest labor union to make a clear statement about speculation that it was weighing a bid for Conoco Inc., the oil unit of Du Pont Co. Elf Aquitaine has not commented on the situation.
 - ProSieben AG, a German broadcaster, has paid 680 million Deutsche marks in agreements to acquire the rights to more than 1,000 films and television programs.
 - Austrian Airlines AG said first-half pretax profit rose sevenfold, to 626.9 million schillings (\$49.5 million), as traffic grew on routes to Eastern Europe and Asia.
 - Greece said it would try again to sell a majority stake in Hellenic Duty Free Shops SA, the country's largest retailer, in late September or early October after it canceled the first sale in July because bids were too low.
 - Portugal's jobless rate fell during the second quarter to its lowest level since December 1992, the nation's statistics agency said, as the booming economy produced more jobs in tourism and financial services: Unemployment fell to 4.6 percent from 5.9 percent in the first quarter.
 - Rentokil Initial PLC shares fell after the Britain-based services provider said first-half net income rose 19.1 percent to £160.9 million (\$260.1 million), held below a 20 percent target by the strong pound and troubles in Asia.
 - Liberty PLC, a British retailer, said sales fell 3 percent in the six months that ended Aug. 1. It said price-cutting to clear out old clothing lines would "adversely impact" its profit for the period.
- AFP, Bloomberg, Reuters

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Wednesday, Aug. 19
Daily prices in local currencies

High Low Close Prev.

Amsterdam

AEX Index: 1196.94

Prev.: 1194.91

Change: +1.27

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High Low Stock DW Yld PE Ratio Dividend Yield

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ALOFT: In-Flight

Continued from Page 1

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LOFT: In-Flight Entertainment

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Anxiety in Jakarta Over Rule Change

Critics Say Privatization Plan Imperiled

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

JAKARTA — A government decision this week to change the rules for selling shares in Indonesia's largest cement maker to foreigners threatens the viability of a major privatization program, analysts said Wednesday.

They also said that the decision to delay the final step in the sale of PT Semen Gresik, which is 35 percent owned by the state, and prevent the buyer from gaining majority control would make investors wary of returning to Indonesia just when private foreign capital is most urgently needed to boost growth, jobs and exports in an economy hit by its worst recession in 30 years.

"They are changing the rules at the last minute because of some popular pressure against the sale of assets to foreigners," said Edhi Wijitojo, head of research at Mashill Securities. "I think it's a bad signal to investors."

Semen Gresik is one of 12 companies fully or partly owned by the state that the government promised to sell off by the end of March under an agreement with the International Monetary Fund. In return for the pledges of privatization and other sweeping reforms, the IMF organized an emergency loan package worth more than \$40 billion to help stabilize the Indonesian currency and economy.

Jakarta hopes to earn at least \$1.5 billion in foreign exchange from the privatization program to help finance a large budget deficit swollen by the need to subsidize prices of food, fuel and other essentials for an estimated 80 million Indonesians, or 40 percent of the population, who are said by the government to be living below the poverty line.

The Semen Gresik sale was the furthest advanced. Indeed, Wednesday was the deadline fixed by the government for the final round of foreign bids for control of the company.

Mexico's Cemex SA, the world's third-largest cement maker, won the first round in the bidding last month when it offered \$287 million for the government's 35 percent stake.

But the other three firms interested in Semen Gresik—Germany's Heidelberg Zement AG, Switzerland's Holderbank AG, and a unit of France's Lafarge group—were given the opportunity to outbid Cemex by Aug. 19. The Mexican company, however, would have the chance to top any new bid within five days.

The winning strategic investor would then have the right to buy another 16 percent of Semen Gresik on the Jakarta Stock Exchange, giving it 51 percent control. But following objections to the sale from workers and local residents worried about foreign ownership in two Indonesian provinces where the company has large cement plants, a senior official of the state enterprises ministry said Tuesday that it would extend the deadline so that a new formula could be worked out to safeguard Indonesian control and interests.

"You're looking at huge ramifications," Simon Francis, an analyst in the Singapore office of Credit Suisse First Boston, said to Bloomberg News. "First of all, Gresik becomes less attractive to a potential investor, which means the bids will be lower. More broadly, people are going to doubt the whole privatization program."

Other analysts said that the plan to change the rules for the Semen Gresik sale was part of a wider credibility problem facing the government of President B.J. Habibie as it seeks to reconcile conflicting demands for greater efficiency in the economy with growing pressures for more nationalistic policies to limit foreign ownership and competition.

They said that the Semen Gresik case also called into question the ability and willingness of the government to push through painful change in the face of populist pressure and powerful local vested interests, such as the management of state-owned companies unwilling to surrender control to outsiders.

"Issues that confuse investors should be straightened out because if they are not, it will be difficult to get them to come back to Indonesia," said an economist, Mari Pangestu, in Jakarta.



GOOD VIBRATIONS — An employee of Bandai Co. in Tokyo enjoying music conducted to her inner ear through a lollipop inserted in the company's "Silent Shout" machine, which is to go on sale in September for 1,480 yen (\$10.22) and will be available in a range of music styles.

Ratings Cut for 2 Japan Carmakers

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — Moody's Investors Service Inc. cut its ratings on the debt of two Japanese automakers, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and Nissan Motor Corp., on Wednesday, citing worries about their weak earnings.

Both carmakers face serious debt problems, mounting competition and a depressed home market, the credit rating agency said. It said Mitsubishi's ratings outlook was stable but called Nissan's negative because of uncertainty over its debt future.

Moody's lowered its long-term debt rating for Mitsubishi to Baa3 from Baa2, putting it one step above "speculative grade."

The downgrade coincided with a sharp decline in Mitsubishi Motors' stock.

The shares sank to an all-time low of 288 yen (\$1.99) Wednesday morning before closing the day at 291 yen, unchanged from Tuesday.

The stock has fallen 13 yen, or 4.3 percent, this week.

Moody's attributed its action to "mounting difficulties and pressures" that Mitsubishi faces "in its efforts to restore its long-term profitability."

The carmaker says it will lose 26 billion yen in 1999, after it suffered a loss of 102 billion yen last year. "Mitsubishi has experienced difficulties in its overseas operations and has not kept up with the increased pace of new-product introductions within its home market," Moody's said in a news release.

Moody's cut its long-term debt rating for Nissan Motor and its subsidiaries to Baa3 from Baa1 in response to "the company's weak financial performance in both its Asian and U.S. operations," the company said.

The agency said that its outlook for Nissan's rating remained negative. This sometimes indicates that

it might lower the rating again. A lower credit rating is associated with a higher risk for lenders. The action Wednesday will probably raise borrowing costs for the automakers. (AP, AFP)

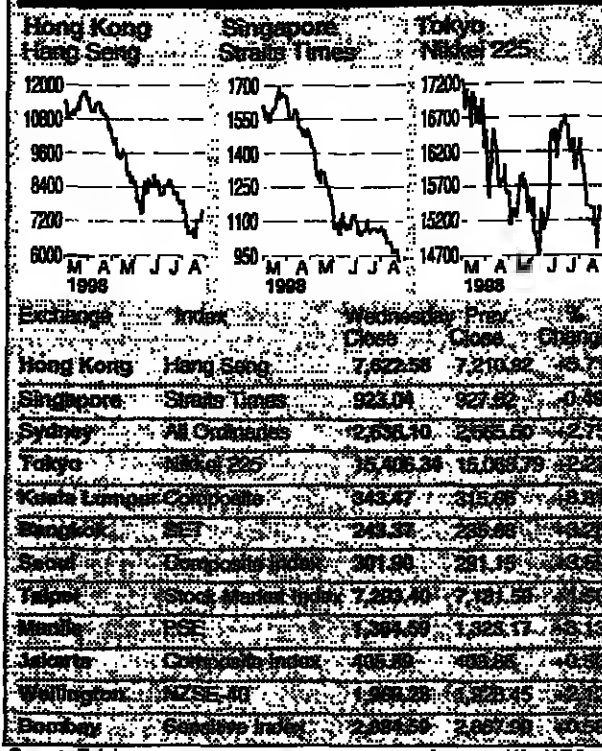
Deficit Cap Reconsidered

Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa of Japan said Wednesday that he would consider trying to abolish legislation that severely restricts government borrowing. Agency France-Press reported from Tokyo.

The so-called fiscal reform law, passed in November 1997 to help reduce the budget deficit, has been widely criticized for hampering efforts to stimulate the economy with government spending.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi has already promised to try to freeze the legislation, suggesting that it need only be suspended for a year, not abolished.

Investor's Asia



Very briefly:

- Hyundai Motor Co.'s labor dispute, involving strikes and lockouts, has cost South Korea 1.5 trillion won (\$1.1 billion) in the past three months, according to government officials.
- Ryoko Securities Co. and Daiwani Securities Co., two brokerages in the Mitsubishi group of Japan, said they would merge in April to survive financial deregulation in Tokyo.
- Oldi Electric Industry Co., the top Japanese maker of communications equipment, has stopped production and sales of mobile phones at its U.S. unit, Oldi Telecom Inc.
- Canon Inc.'s pretax profit in the six-month period ended June 30 rose 9.3 percent to \$5.7 billion yen (\$58.8 million) from the like period last year.
- Toyo Tire & Rubber Co. said that Nippon Giant Tyre Co., its joint venture with Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. and Mitsubishi Corp., would invest \$9 billion yen to raise output of tires used on earth-moving equipment.
- Toshiba Corp., Japan's second-largest maker of semiconductors, said it would increase by 2001 output of the memory chips used in portable products like mobile phones in a bid to reduce its dependence on the unprofitable memory chips most commonly used in personal computers.
- Thailand has agreed to open up more industries to foreign investors in a bid to stimulate economic growth and meet international trade practices. (AFP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

Hong Kong Stocks Up

Agence France-Press

HONG KONG — The government pursued its war against speculators Wednesday, sending stocks sharply higher, despite warnings the intervention would distort the market and add to uncertainty.

The benchmark Hang Seng Index closed up 411.66 points, or 5.7 percent at 7,622.58. Dealers attributed the rise to reports that the Hong Kong Monetary Authority was buying Hong Kong dollars as well as a firmer yen and gains on Wall Street.

But the intervention won the government few friends among international investors. Analysts warned that it was only adding to the markets' general uncertainty.

Separately, the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy said Hong Kong was facing its most difficult period in modern times, with public confidence in the government eroded.

RUSSIA: From Hero to Pariah

Continued from Page 11

zero in the initial plans," said Michael Eggleton, director of fixed income here for Credit Suisse.

The investment house warned that if Russia went ahead, "foreign investors will continue to leave and new investors will not enter. Russia will not obtain the capital and know-how required to revitalize its economy."

Wednesday night, the government hastily backpedaled and said it would bring in J.P. Morgan and Deutsche Bank for help, postponing an announcement until Monday.

The government said it would try to defend "all groups of investors."

But the initial scare that foreigners would be left not only further unsettled Western investment bankers.

"There are a number of things they need to do quickly," said Mr. Eggleton. "You need one voice in the government. It's difficult to know who to go to on this—everyone is scrambling, trying to figure out who to talk to. That, on top of lack of transparency, lack of willingness to bring foreign creditors into the negotiating process."

He added, "We feel we are getting something less than last week. It's key that there

be credibility."

Mr. Kiriyenko also sought Wednesday to soothe the worries in an interview with Russia's three main television channels. He said Russia would postpone its domestic debt by three to five years.

"We are not renouncing it, we are saying that we will repay it, but over a longer period of time," he insisted.

"All obligations of the government will, of course, be fulfilled. Of course, it's unpleasant for investors."

A Delay on Gazprom

Russia said it would delay selling a 5 percent stake in OAO Gazprom until it sees interest from at least two bidders, and may lower the starting price, because of investors' concerns about Russia's financial crisis, Bloomberg News reported.

Russia will await advice from Deutsche Bank before setting any conditions of the sale of the stake in Gazprom, the world's largest gas company, said Igor Shurvalov, acting chairman of the Federal Property Fund.

Omnicom Buys Into Japan via Nissan-Linked Ad Agency

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — The world's largest advertising company, Omnicom Group Inc., said Wednesday that it would enter the Japanese market by acquiring an agency affiliated with Nissan Motor Co.

Omnicom's advertising agency, TBWA Worldwide, and Nissan have signed a letter of intent for the U.S. agency to "acquire a majority stake in Nissan's subsidiary, Nippo Corp.," TBWA said in a statement released here.

The company will buy Nippo's shares from Nissan and other local shareholders, it said. Nissan will retain a "minority shareholding in the new company."

Nissan currently has a 43 percent stake in Nippo, a medium-sized advertising agency ranked 16th in Japan in terms of annual billings.

"TBWA has now reached the size where we need our own presence in Japan to serve the expanding needs of our clients in the Japanese market," the TBWA chairman, William Tragos, said in the statement.

TBWA is the ninth largest advertising agency in the world, with annual billings of \$7.3 billion and 5,300 staff members in 62 countries.

In 1993 it became a part of Omnicom Group, which also includes such other leading advertising agencies as BBDO Worldwide and DDB Needham Worldwide.

Nippo was established in 1955 mainly to handle advertising for Nissan. Its client list includes such Nissan units as Unisia Jecs Corp., a

parts maker, as well as such companies as Canon Inc., which makes cameras, photocopiers and fax machines, Hitachi Ltd. and Nippon Life Insurance Co.

The unlisted advertising company, which does not report earnings, made gross profit of 4.7 billion yen (\$32.3 million) in the year through March 1998 on sales that fell 0.7 percent to 40.5 billion yen.

Nissan is seeking to unload some of its affiliates not directly related to its core business, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun business daily said.

The second-largest Japanese automaker reported a 14 billion yen loss for the year through March, reversing a 77.7 billion yen profit in the previous year, with pretax profit crashing 96.7 percent to 4.7 billion yen.

Other major advertising agencies have been entering the Japanese market, seeking opportunities as the "Big Bang" financial deregulation fosters an attractive environment for foreign companies.

Koichi Sonoda, a senior manager at the top Japanese agency, Dentsu, said competition in the industry was expected to intensify as more foreign rivals came in.

"Already many of the world's major advertising agencies are in Japan," Mr. Sonoda said. "I expect there will be more foreign advertising agencies entering the Japanese market to take advantage of the weak yen against the dollar as well as progress in financial deregulation."

Asatsu Inc., the third-largest Japanese advertising agency, agreed

this month to a capital and business tie-up with WPP Group PLC of Britain. WPP will hold more than 20 percent of Asatsu's shares.

"Competition is getting tough, so you have to get bigger if you want to survive," said Shashi Nishiyama, an advertising industry analyst at Towa Securities Co.

"As companies globalize, they want their advertising companies" to serve them anywhere they choose to go.

He added that companies like Nissan can cut costs by having one agency coordinate advertising in all its markets.

A growing openness in Japan to foreign companies helped TBWA Worldwide acquire the Japanese agency, a company executive said. (AFP, Reuters, Bloomberg)

ALOFT: In-Flight Entertainment Is Airlines' New Dogfight

Continued from Page 1

will begin showing up in smaller, single-aisle planes flying shorter routes. At the same time, passengers will also be offered live television and Internet connections by satellite, enabling them to watch live football games, send and receive electronic mail, surf the World Wide Web and trade stocks.

"Watching movies on airplanes dates back to the early days of flight, when a single 16mm film was passed through a series of projectors in the cabin at the same time. The idea of putting dozens of personalized entertainment choices at the fingertips of airline passengers was born in the late 1980s when the media industry's top executives began promoting a vision of interactive television."

The systems were at first offered exclusively to passengers in first and business class. Airlines like Virgin Group's Virgin Atlantic and Singapore Airlines began making them available at every seat on their wide-body planes in the early 1990s, establishing a trend for the industry.

But if offering 500 channels and movies on demand to homes on the ground proved more difficult than many had thought, it was even more challenging in the air.

The video systems on planes place the equivalent of a personal computer under every seat. Each seat is then linked to a central computer over a high-capacity data network not that different from the ones that connect PCs in many offices. Complex software determines which signal is sent to which seat.

As many office workers know, such networks are still fairly unreliable. At 35,000 feet (10,500 meters), the vibration, heat and lack of humidity in an aircraft make the environment even more hostile to electronic equipment of all types. The personal video systems take added abuse from spilled drinks and

outright vandalism. In the early 1990s, vendors played down the difficulties of making the systems work.

"The industry tempted people with things that have been a little bit more difficult to get up and running on airplanes than they anticipated," said Marco Lanza, executive vice president of B/E Aerospace Inc., one of the largest suppliers of airplane interiors and in-flight entertainment systems.

Indeed, B/E Aerospace spent three years developing a top-line system for British Airways worth as much as \$155 million before the airline finally abandoned the effort last autumn after numerous delays. Northwest Airlines had a similar experience with Hughes-Avionics, a division of the giant Hughes Electronics unit of General Motors Corp.

In 1996, United Airlines sued GEC-Marconi, a unit of General Electric Co. of Britain, when it failed to deliver on its promises for an entertainment system designed for the first Boeing 777. The two sides settled their dispute out of court last autumn.

The biggest problem with those early systems was that they worked only 90 percent of the time, which meant that even on flights where the systems were offered only in first and business class, a half-dozen seats or more might be out of order.

Production delays and other problems with the systems have caused major headaches for Boeing Co. and Airbus Industrie, the two leading makers of commercial jets.

"We have had reports of passengers who refused to get off airplanes because their in-flight entertainment systems didn't work," said Dave Sebring, the chief engineer for cabin systems at Boeing.

After those unhappy experiences, suppliers scaled back their products, providing airlines with several dedicated channels of movies and games that run simultaneously but

cannot be stopped or started at will by each passenger. In a wonderfully simple low-tech solution, many airlines provide miniature videocassette players, enabling elite passengers to have video-on-demand by choosing from a library of tapes.

Reliability is still a problem, however. Singapore Airlines, which prides itself on being on the leading edge of in-flight entertainment, says its systems now function 99 percent of the time. But the carrier's maintenance crews spend an additional 35 hours a week on each of its 56 wide-body planes meticulously checking to make sure that every feature of the entertainment system is working properly at every seat.

At Cathay Pacific, which Mr. Fjalstad said remained one of his favorite carriers, reliability of its 13,000 in-seat video screens has improved sixfold the last 18 months, according to Christopher Gibbs, the general manager of engineering.

"We had a painful period about two years ago," he added, "but we have gained a lot of experience."

Many carriers say they hope that they can offset the expense of the new systems with revenue generated by on-line advertising, shopping and gambling. But airlines that have experimented with such features, including Singapore Air and Swissair, have been disappointed by the results so far.

Even so, when it comes to in-flight entertainment, the top airlines find it difficult to resist the siren song of newer, better, cooler.

In June, Japan Airlines began offering first-class passengers on its U.S.-Japan and Europe-Japan flights special eyeglasses fitted with tiny video screens. The airline says that using the glasses, which are made by Olympus Optical Co. and cost \$500 a pair, is like watching a 62-inch (157-centimeter) screen.

But only when the system is working.

FUNDS: Investors Flounder in Russia

Continued from Page 11

mestic investors would receive about 32 cents on the dollar. If foreign investors wind up swallowing larger losses on the securities than domestic investors, they will no doubt be reluctant to reinvest in Russia anytime soon.

Many emerging-market debt funds that have invested in Russia hold long-term government bonds, which are denominated in dollars rather than rubles. Unlike the GKO, these bonds have continued to trade this week and have fallen sharply in value.

"Bonds that were priced at 30 cents on the dollar on Friday fell to 25 cents on Monday and about 21 cents" on Tuesday, said Craig Monro, manager of the AIM Global High Income fund. In April, when Russian investments accounted for about 18 percent of the AIM fund's \$354 million in assets, the bonds were valued at 64 cents on the dollar.

"The bonds have been trading,

but certainly the liquidity is nothing like it was a few weeks ago," Mr. Monro said. "A lot of fund managers are apparently being told to exit the market. This is a classic end-of-a-meltdown phase we are going through."

At least for now, the AIM fund is holding onto its Russian bonds, he said.

Emerging market funds that buy debt have suffered far more in the Russian economic upheaval than funds that buy equities. Last October, the Asian turmoil mainly dealt blows to investors in emerging-market stock funds.

On Monday, the biggest emerging-market debt funds declined in value by 5.5 percent to 8 percent, according to Lipper Analytical Services. Emerging-market equity funds declined by 0.5 percent to 3.5 percent.

The big exception was the Lexington Troika Dialog Russia fund, primarily a stock fund, which reported a decline of a whopping 13.5 percent that day.

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Wednesday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar value, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭	৮	৯	১০	১১	১২	১৩	১৪	১৫	১৬	১৭	১৮	১৯	২০	২১	২২	২৩	২৪	২৫	২৬	২৭	২৮	২৯	৩০	৩১	৩২	৩৩	৩৪	৩৫	৩৬	৩৭	৩৮	৩৯	৪০	৪১	৪২	৪৩	৪৪	৪৫	৪৬	৪৭	৪৮	৪৯	৫০	৫১	৫২	৫৩	৫৪	৫৫	৫৬	৫৭	৫৮	৫৯	৬০	৬১	৬২	৬৩	৬৪	৬৫	৬৬	৬৭	৬৮	৬৯	৭০	৭১	৭২	৭৩	৭৪	৭৫	৭৬	৭৭	৭৮	৭৯	৮০	৮১	৮২	৮৩	৮৪	৮৫	৮৬	৮৭	৮৮	৮৯	৯০	৯১	৯২	৯৩	৯৪	৯৫	৯৬	৯৭	৯৮	৯৯	১০০
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Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

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999 Other Funds

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Spain Seeks Scalp

The Spanish Olympic Committee said Wednesday it would demand the resignation of Prince Alexander de Merode, the International Olympic Committee's anti-doping chief, unless he retracts accusations that the Spanish were lax on drugs in sport.

"One must not forget that Spanish sports, for a long time, has had tendencies toward doping," de Merode had said. (AP)

Paolo Negro, an Italian international defender, said Wednesday that players at Lazio, the Italian Serie A team, had taken creatine when Zdenek Zeman was coach.

Negro was speaking after testifying before an anti-doping panel of the Italian Olympic Committee. The investigation was triggered by comments by Zeman, now the coach at Roma, on drug use in Italian soccer.

Negro said the team had stopped using creatine since Sven Goran Eriksson had taken over. "When it became apparent creatine didn't have the desired effects, it was taken off the list of administered drugs," Negro said.

Creatine is an amino acid that occurs naturally in the body and plays a role in muscle contraction. Its use is legal. (Reuters)

French police are in question seven more TVM cyclists in Reims on Thursday. The team's doctor, Andrei Mikhailov, has been in custody since the seizure of substances from TVM vans during the Tour de France. (AFP)

Maradona Returns, Again

Soccer Diego Maradona is planning a seventh comeback to play friendly matches for Badajoz of the Spanish second division, his manager, Guillermo Coppola, said. He said Maradona would probably play for Badajoz in September or in October, when he will turn 38. Badajoz is partly owned by Marcelo Tinelli, an Argentine TV celebrity. (AP)

Covecity City of the English Premier League made a £500,000 (\$875,000) profit on the transfer of Robert Jari, even though he never played for them. Jari is to join Real Madrid, which made its bid after the Croatian had agreed to join Coventry from Real Betis. (Reuters)

Sacramento Fires Coach

Basketball The Sacramento Kings fired coach Eddie Jordan, who led the team to a 27-55 record last season. (AP)

Argentina Reaches Cup

Rugby Union Argentina and Canada secured two of the Americas places in the 1999 World Cup in Wales with victories in Buenos Aires on Tuesday. Argentina (2-0) crushed Uruguay (0-2), 55-0. Canada (2-1) beat the United States (0-2), 31-14. The United States and Uruguay play Saturday; the winner will also qualify. (Reuters)

Tennis Comes to Grip With Steroid Threat

'Tons Out There,' and Not All Sold Illegally

By Robin Finn
New York Times Service

NEW YORK—The case of Samanthia Reeves, a rising tennis player, highlights a troubling question for tennis: With the easy availability of illicit steroids, and the simultaneous explosion of fitness and muscle-building products that are sold legally but often with little warning about what they contain, how many players are trying to gain an inappropriate edge?

Only one other player, Ignacio Trujillo of Spain, has been formally found to have used steroids.

Reeves, a well-regarded amateur finding her way through her first season on the women's professional tennis circuit, said it was her desire to get back into shape quickly after an ankle injury late in 1997 that led her to experiment with a newfangled "all-natural" dietary supplement, apparently on the recommendation of a friend.

The product promised to help her burn fat and build muscle, and it was readily available over the counter at health-food stores. It sounded like the answer to her prayers: a training and diet aid that would help her get fit quickly. Instead, Reeves's decision to use the product backfired badly. Required to submit a urine sample at an event last December, she failed the test. The dietary product, it turned out, had contained Nor-Andro 19, a variation on the classic steroid nandrolone and one of the substances banned by the sport.

And so Reeves, despite her assertion that she had no intention of taking anything aimed at improving athletic performance, became the first female tennis player ever to have tested positive for steroids.

The International Tennis Federation, or ITF, which governs the sport, ultimately did not discipline Reeves, who is ranked 106th in the world.

Citing her age—she turned 19 earlier this year—and inexperience, and apparently accepting her claim that she was unaware of the presence of steroids in the product, the federation instead called the loopy and embarrassing ordeal of testing, investigation and public disclosure a sanction in itself.

Alan Jones, an ITF spokesman, said the investigation "proved Reeves guilty of taking the banned substance, and, although the decision against any further punishment is arguably lenient, if caught again, she could face a life ban as a second offender."

Dr. Alan Jones, a pharmacology professor at the University of Mississippi who acts as the toxicology consultant for the company that administers drug testing for the men's and women's tours and for the ITF, said:

"Tennis is a sport I would not have thought would be steroid-involved, but there are tons of steroids out there these days, and they're not all coming from the black market." Dr. Jones said numerous high-tech steroids are being marketed as simple food supplements and training aids and sold everywhere from the Internet to health-food stores. "It's conceivable that a player could be oblivious to the fact that they're

using something that contains an anabolic substance," he said. "They think it's natural, it's pure, it's good for me. And that is an absolute fallacy."

The Nor-Andro 19 in the supplement Reeves chose is a product that, according to Dr. Jones, "is the new kid on the block, the popular one right now. It's not a testosterone type of steroid, and the labs originally weren't testing for it. It's offered as a food supplement and marketed as a performance and training enhancer that increases muscle strength, mass and endurance."

Tennis has stepped up its testing and the detection efforts of its anti-doping program, which is modeled on the one used by the International Olympic Committee. The ITF, in conjunction with the men's and women's tours, conducts roughly 1,000 tests each year, all of them random and 10 percent of them in locations other than the site of tournaments.

The cost to the three tennis organizations is approximately \$500,000 per year, and so far, the only other player found guilty of using steroids is the 23-year-old Trujillo, who said he took them on the advice of his physician when recovering from an injury. Trujillo was suspended for a year in January 1997.

"No sport is immune anymore," said Dr. Donna Smith of Substance Abuse Management, the company that administers tennis's anti-doping program. "Wherever you have issues of injury recovery and athletes intent on maximizing their training, you're going to see this stuff."

"Our window of detection is small, because most of these products clear the system within five days, and although we'd like to do more off-site testing, it's prohibitively expensive. You always feel like you're one step behind."

If only two players have tested positive after thousands of tests, does it mean that tennis can rest assured it has no steroid problem? Some players say no.

Jim Courier, who trained his way to the No. 1 ranking and four Grand Slam singles championships without steroid shortcuts, said:

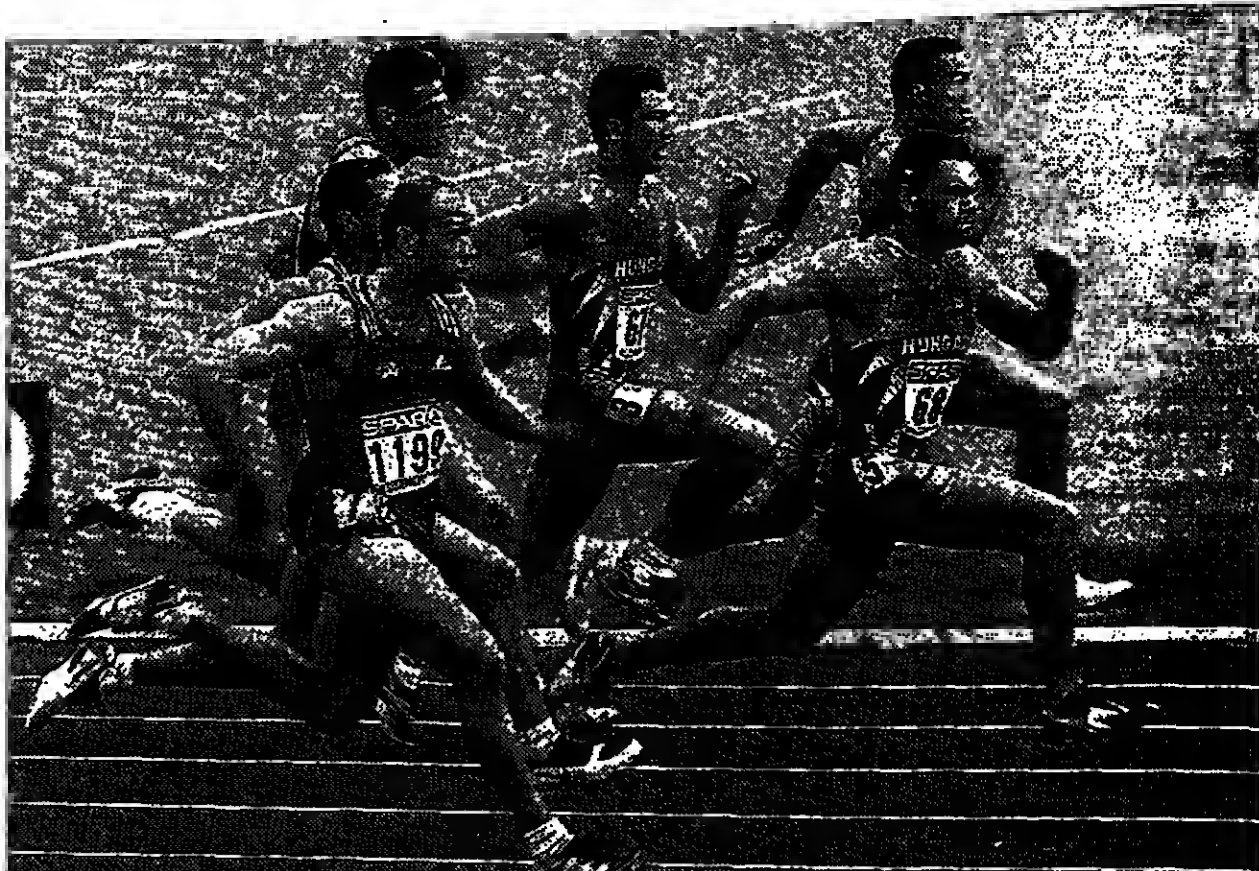
"If being big and strong were the main criteria for being a good player, then weight lifters would be the best. But I can see where this stuff might help out some of the more slight guys, because it can make you train like an animal."

"No one worked harder on their training than I did," Courier said, "and it disgusts me to think I may have lost matches to guys who've been juicing and cycling it out of their systems in time for competition."

Debbie Graham, a women's tour veteran, said: "I think there's a lot of it going on because of the pressures in women's sports, and not just to win. There's a lot of pressure for a woman to look fit in front of a crowd."

Australian Tests Abnormal

An Australian athlete has returned an abnormal testosterone test, Craig McLachley, the secretary-general of the Australian Olympic Committee, said Tuesday. The Associated Press reported from Sydney. Mr. McLachley would not name the athlete involved or the athlete's sport.



Competitors running in the decathlon 100 meters in the European athletics championships on Wednesday.

Christie's Heirs Dominate in Europe

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BUDAPEST—Darren Campbell and Dwain Chambers finished first and second in the 100 meters final Wednesday at the European track and field championships, continuing the British dominance of the event.

Lindford Christie, who has retired, was the reigning champion and won the event three times.

Campbell, who is 25 years old, won in 10.04 seconds. Chambers, 20, was second, at 10.10. Haralambos Papadakis of Greece was third, at 10.17. A third Briton, Marion Devonish, was fifth.

Stefano Tilli of Italy finished fourth. Tilli had been disqualified Tuesday after abusing a referee who did not let him run a lap of honor after his qualifying heat. Tilli was reinstated after apologizing.

Christine Arroz of France set a European record of 10.73 seconds to win the women's 100 meters.

Irina Privalova of Russia made a flying start. But Arroz caught Privalova in the last 20 meters and stripped the Russian of the title and the European record. Privalova's record was 10.77, set in 1994.

Privalova clocked 10.83 to win the silver in her fastest race this year. Ekaterini Thanou of Greece won the bronze in 10.87 despite a slow

start and set a national record.

The only woman to run faster this year is the American star Marion Jones.

Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland woo the women's 10,000 meters with a powerful finish in the last 200 meters.

O'Sullivan finished in 31 minutes, 29.33 seconds to beat Fernanda Ribeiro of Portugal, the Olympic champion,

who took the silver in 31:32.42. Lidia Simon of Romania was third in 31:32.64.

Tanja Damaske of Germany unleashed a throw of 69.10 meters in her first attempt to win the gold medal in the women's javelin.

Damaske, 26, gave Germany its first gold medal of the European event.

Tatyana Shkolnikova of Russia took the silver medal at 66.92, while Mikaela In-

berg of Finland clinched the bronze at 64.92.

The host dominated the hammer throw. Tibor Gecsek of Hungary won with a throw of 82.87 meters, and a compatriot, Balazs Kiss, threw 81.26 meters to finish second.

Karsten Kobs of Germany was third with 80.13 meters.

Stephane Diagana of France, the world champion, tripped over a hurdle and failed to qualify for the final of the men's 400-meter hurdles.

In Dakar, Senegal, on Wednesday, Seun Ogunkoya of Nigeria won the 100 meters at the African championships in 9.94 seconds.

Frankie Fredericks of Namibia was second in 9.97. (AP, AFP)

Mitchell Positive Twice

The second part of sprinter Dennis Mitchell's urine sample tested positive for testosterone, the International Amateur Athletic Federation confirmed Wednesday. The Associated Press reported from Budapest.

The sample was taken at an out-of-competition test April 1 in Florida. Mitchell, the 100 meters bronze medalist at the 1992 Olympic, will be banned for two years unless he wins an appeal before the doping board of USA Track & Field.

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SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE			
EAST DIVISION			
Team	W	L	Pct.
New York	72	30	.704
Baltimore	67	35	.656
Toronto	63	39	.616
Tampa Bay	49	75	.396
CENTRAL DIVISION			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Cleveland	69	35	.664
Chicago	64	40	.615
Kansas City	55	70	.440
Minnesota	54	70	.435
Detroit	49	74	.398
WEST DIVISION			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Anaheim	67	38	.638
Texas	65	39	.624
Seattle	56	67	.450
Oakland	55	70	.440
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
EAST DIVISION			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Atlanta	63	47	.569
New York	62	48	.564
Philadelphia	61	49	.554
Montreal	59	76	.437
Florida	44	91	.324
CENTRAL DIVISION			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Houston	77	47	.618
Chicago	69	56	.552
St. Louis	60	65	.480
St. Louis	59	64	.478
Pittsburgh	57	68	.456
Cincinnati	56	69	.448
WEST DIVISION			
Team	W	L	Pct.
San Diego	61	44	.580
San Francisco	59	59	.500
Los Angeles	42	73	.363
Colorado	37	80	.315
Arizona	47	78	.376

SECOND DIVISION			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Colorado	60	60	.500
New York	59	61	.492
Los Angeles	58	62	.484
San Francisco	57	63	.476
San Diego	56	64	.468
San Jose	55	65	.460
San Jose	54	66	.452
San Jose	53	67	.444
San Jose	52	68	.436
San Jose	51	69	.428
San Jose	50	70	.420
San Jose	49	71	.412
San Jose	48	72	.404
San Jose	47	73	.396
San Jose	46	74	.388
San Jose	45	75	.380
San Jose	44	76	.372
San Jose	43	77	.364
San Jose	42	78	.356
San Jose	41	79	.348
San Jose	40	80	.340
San Jose	39	81	.332
San Jose	38	82	.324
San Jose	37	83	.316
San Jose	36	84	.308
San Jose	35	85	.300
San Jose	34	86	.292
San Jose	33	87	.284
San Jose	32	88	.276
San Jose	31	89	.268
San Jose	30	90	.260
San Jose	29	91	.252
San Jose	28	92	.244
San Jose	27	93	.236
San Jose	26	94	.228
San Jose	25	95	.220
San Jose	24	96	.212
San Jose	23	97	.204
San Jose	22	98	.196
San Jose	21	99	.188
San Jose	20	100	.180

JAPANESE LEAGUES			
CENTRAL LEAGUE			
Team	W	L	Pct.
Yokohama	57	35	.618
Chiba	56	36	.608
Yokohama	55	37	.598
Yokohama	54	38	.588
Yokohama	53	39	.578
Yokohama	52	40	.568
Yokohama	51	41	.558
Yokohama	50	42	.548
Yokohama	49	43	.538
Yokohama	48	44	.528
Yokohama	47	45	.518
Yokohama	46	46	.508
Yokohama	45	47	.498
Yokohama	44	48	.488
Yokohama	43	49	.478
Yokohama	42	50	.468
Yokohama	41	51	.458
Yokohama	40	52	.448
Yokohama	39	53	.438
Yokohama	38	54	.428
Yokohama	37	55	.418
Yokohama	36	56	.408
Yokohama	35	57	.398
Yokohama	34	58	.388
Yokohama	33	59	.378
Yokohama	32	60	.368
Yokohama	31	61	.358
Yokohama	30	62	.348
Yokohama	29	63	.338
Yokohama	28	64	.328
Yokohama	27	65	.318
Yokohama	26	66	.308
Yokohama	25	67	.298
Yokohama	24	68	.288
Yokohama	23	69	.278
Yokohama	22	70	.268
Yokohama	21	71	.258
Yokohama	20	72	.248
Yokohama	19	73	.238
Yokohama	18	74	.228
Yokohama	17	75	.218
Yokohama	16	76	.208
Yokohama	15	77	.198
Yokohama	14	78	.188
Yokohama	13	79	.178
Yokohama	12	80	.168
Yokohama	11	81	.158
Yokohama	10	82	.148
Yokohama	9	83	.138
Yokohama	8	84	.128
Yokohama	7	85	.118
Yokohama	6	86	.108
Yokohama	5	87	.098
Yokohama	4	88	.088
Yokohama	3	89	.078
Yokohama	2	90	.068
Yokohama	1	91	.058
Yokohama	0	92	.048
Yokohama	0	93	.038
Yokohama	0	94	.028
Yokohama	0	95	.018
Yokohama	0	96	.008
Yokohama	0	97	.000
Yokohama	0	98	.000
Yokohama	0	99	.000
Yokohama	0	100	.000

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Tombstone name
- 8 Carpenter's tool
- 9 Waits
- 14 Perplexed
- 15 Bibliographic abbr.
- 19 Like some bookstores
- 27 Pursued pure partners?
- 29 Kind of couplet
- 30 Bulger co-star of 1939
- 32 Shoe part
- 33 Royale, of 30's badcom
- 23 Appeal (for)
- 24 NBC prog. since 1975
- 27 Longed for log
- 34 Packed for
- 36 Place for a dinette set
- 37 No mere spectator
- 38 They have shoulders
- 41 Mandarin feature

SPORTS

Bosox Sweep Twin Bill as Top Reliever Fails Texas

The Associated Press
The Boston Red Sox gained ground in their forlorn chase of the New York Yankees and in their more probable quest to stay ahead of the Baltimore Orioles, sweeping the Texas Rangers in a double header at Fenway Park.

Mo Vaughn homered to break a seventh-inning tie as the Red Sox won the second game on Tuesday, 5-4.

In the first game, Pedro Martinez (16-4) took a three-hitter into the ninth in

AL ROUNDUP

ing as Boston won, 4-1. Martinez struck out 10 and walked one in 8 1/2 innings.

Tom Gordon saved both games, giving him 36 saves this season and 33 straight.

The Red Sox are 1 1/2 games behind the Yankees in the AL East and seven ahead of the Orioles in the race for the league's wild-card playoff berth.

Yankees 3, Royals 2 After Mariano Rivera failed to hold a lead in the ninth, Chad Curtis snapped an 0-for-15 skid with a run-scoring single in the 13th as New York won in Kansas City.

New York (92-50) swept the season series, 10-0, outscoring the Royals, 77-21. It was the first time in a non-strike year that the Yankees blanked an AL opponent for an entire season series.

The Yankees have won 12 of their last 13 games. Joe Borowski pitched two innings and got his first victory since May 1997.

Orioles 7, Twins 1 In Baltimore, Eric Davis had his fourth two-homer game of the season and drove in four runs as the Orioles improved to 29-8 since the All-Star break.

Davis, who sat out Monday night's game after having his 30-game hitting streak ended on Sunday in Cleveland, hit a solo shot in the first inning and gave the Orioles a 5-1 lead in the seventh with a three-run blast, his 24th homer of the year.

Sidney Ponson (7-6) allowed one run and seven hits in six innings to improve to 6-0 in nine starts since June 26.

Tigers 7, Mariners 6 Bobby Higginson hit a grand slam in the sixth to give Detroit a victory in Seattle.

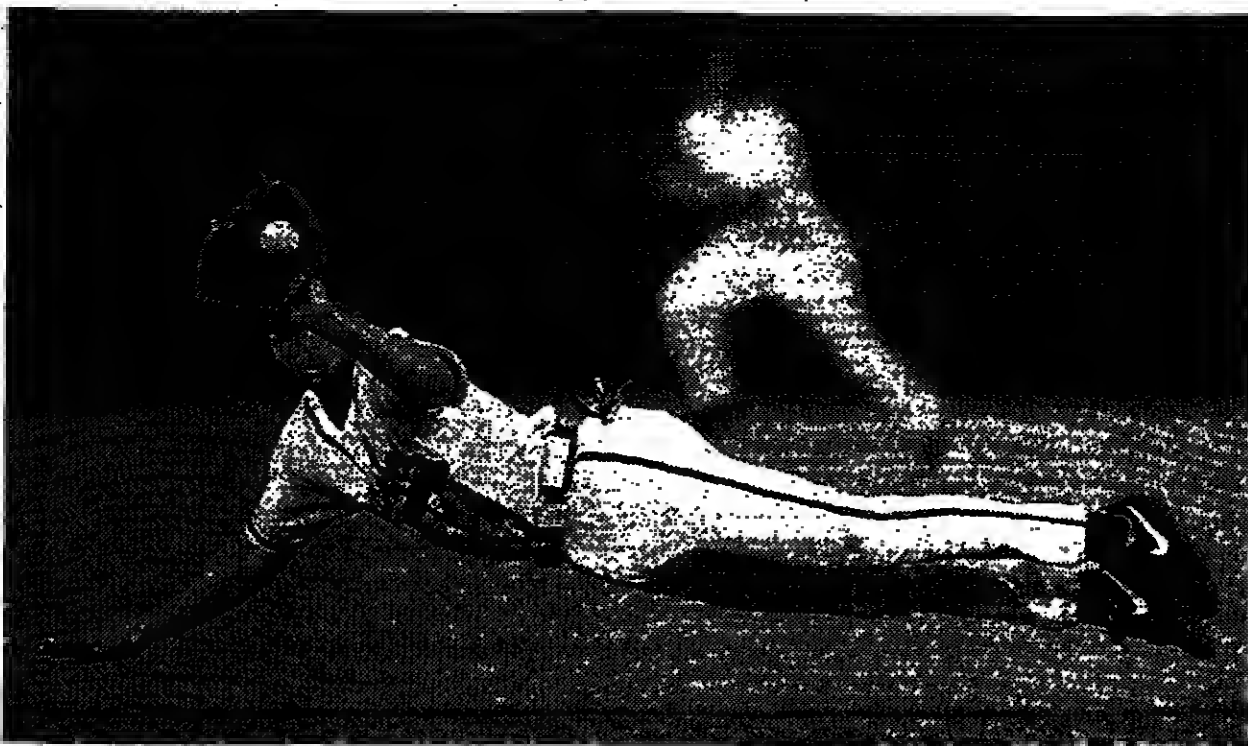
Ken Griffey, the American League home-run leader with 42, was 1-for-5 with two runs batted in. He struck out in the eighth with runners on second and third and has hit just one homer in his last 63 at-bats.

White Sox 4, Angels 3 Albert Belle tied the game with a solo homer in the sixth at Anaheim, then doubled home a pair of runs in the seventh. Despite the loss, Anaheim opened a 1 1/2-game lead in the AL West over second-place Texas.

Belle's homer was his 37th. He has hit 19 homers in his last 38 games.

Indians 4, Devil Rays 2 In Cleveland, Dwight Gooden dazzled Tampa Bay, the team from his home town, allowing one run and eight hits in six innings. Mike Jackson pitched the ninth for his 31st save.

Athletics 10, Blue Jays 5 Scott Spiezio and Matt Stairs each homered twice and drove in four runs as Oakland beat visiting Toronto.



Walt Weiss, the Atlanta shortstop, diving for a grounder hit by Brent Mayne, as the Braves beat the Giants, 8-4.

McGwire and Sosa Hitless as Cubs Win

The Associated Press
Mark McGwire and Sammy Sosa combined to go 0-for-9 and struck out three times each as the Cubs beat the St. Louis Cardinals in Chicago.

The pair remained stuck on 47 homers, 14 short of Roger Maris's record.

"I just have to say that not every day am I going to come over here and hit a

NL ROUNDUP

home run," Sosa said. "I hit one today, but it was foul. I wish it had stayed fair. It doesn't count."

"But that's what the fans come to the park to see — Mark McGwire and myself," he added. "Every time we go out there, they are standing and waiting for something."

Scott Servais, a catcher hitting .200, drove in three runs — all on infield grounders — as the Cubs won, 4-1, Tuesday.

With runners at the corners and one out in the ninth, Rod Beck came on and struck out both McGwire and Ray Lankford for his 37th save as the crowd went wild.

Braves 8, Giants 4 In Atlanta, Greg Maddux became the 94th pitcher in major-league history to win 200 games,

pitching seven strong innings as the Braves beat visiting San Francisco.

Maddux (16-6) improved his career record to 200-114. He is 105-39 during six seasons in Atlanta. He lowered his major league-leading earned run average to 1.65.

The 32-year-old gave up five hits, equalled a season high with three walks and threw a wild pitch that allowed a run to score.

The Braves had nine hits — all doubles. Gerald Williams, Danny Bautista and Walt Weiss each produced a pair of two-base hits, and the catcher Eddie Perez sealed the victory in the seventh with a three-run double.

Mets 6, Rockies 2 Mets 6, Rockies 3 Al Leiter (12-4) shot down Colorado for eight innings in the opener and Mike Piazza hit a go-ahead, three-run double in the second game as New York swept visiting Colorado in a doubleheader.

New York has swept four of five doubleheaders this year.

Edgardo Alfonzo, Todd Hundley, John Olerud and Brian McRae homered in the opener for the Mets, who because of rainouts are playing seven games in a four-day span.

Padres 7, Marlins 5 Greg Vaughn became the fourth player to reach 40 homers this season as San Diego won in

Miami. Quilvio Veras broke a 5-5 tie when he scored on Mike Redmond's passed ball in the eighth. Florida had rallied from a 5-0 deficit.

Pirates 6, Dodgers 4 Freddy Garcia hit his fifth homer in seven games, a two-run, go-ahead drive in the sixth, as Pittsburgh beat visiting Los Angeles.

Jason Schmidt (10-9) survived three homers to win his second in a row since losing eight straight, allowing four runs and 10 hits in seven-plus innings.

Astros 5, Phillies 2 Jeff Bagwell was 3-for-5 with five runs batted in and Craig Biggio went 3-for-4 with two runs scored as Houston won in Philadelphia.

Brewers 8, Reds 4 Jeromy Burnitz hit his career-high 28th homer for a 4-1 lead in the sixth and Bobby Hughes added a two-run shot as Milwaukee beat visiting Cincinnati.

Expos 7, Diamondbacks 1 Brad Fullmer had his first two-homer game and a fellow rookie, Javier Vazquez, won for the first time in eight starts since July 3 as Montreal won in Phoenix to stop a seven-game losing streak.

A Little Male Bonding As Sluggers Touch Base

What Do McGwire and Sosa Talk About?

By Ira Berkow
New York Times Service

CHICAGO — When Sammy Sosa pays a visit to Mark McGwire on first base, do the two men — the talk of the baseball world, and beyond — talk about the gross national product, matters of the heart, or where they stand in relation to Roger Maris? McGwire, the Cardinals' first baseman, was asked this on Tuesday before the first game of the two-game series between his team and Sosa's Cubs in Wrigley Field, a series in which, like the contests between Ayrar and Affirmed, or Ali and Frazier, they are dead even going into the homestretch. McGwire and Sosa had hit 47 homers each, and, if you're counting, it's a hunch of fingers and toes away from Maris's single-season record of 61.

"We talk about things other than baseball," McGwire said. Then, with a wink, he added that they had made a pact "to keep it to ourselves."

The sluggers meet for a brief encounter now — and as they did two weekends ago in St. Louis — and then go their separate and dramatic ways.

The conversation of McGwire, the red-head from the California suburbs, and Sosa, the Cubs' right fielder from the Dominican Republic, interests others beyond the growing horde of reporters covering this story.

"Sammy doesn't speak great English," said Mark Grace, the Cubs' first baseman, "and I don't think Mark speaks great Spanish, so I'm not sure of the extent of their conversation. It just might be: 'Hi, Mac.' 'Hi, Sammy.'"

Ron Gant, the Cardinals' outfielder, said, "They probably talk about anything but the record. I think they hear enough about that."

When Sosa was asked, he said, "We say that we're going to retire together." Then he laughed, sticking, obviously, to the pact.

Sosa likes to say that he is pulling for McGwire to break the record, and for the Cubs to reach post-season play.

"I'm not thinking about chasing anything," he said Tuesday. "Just get in the playoffs." But he admits to taking great

pleasure in all the attention surrounding this home-run business.

"It's like a gift to me," he said. He has spoken often about the mean circumstances in which he grew up in the little town of San Pedro de Macoris, where he shined shoes and picked oranges to help his widowed mother put food on the table. "I'm happy to go do my job and everyone go crazy. I love it. Oh, what a country!"

And he does keep an eye on the competition, watching sports shows on

television to keep abreast, like most fans, of the McGwire doings.

"Sometimes I see that he is trying too hard to hit a home run," Sosa said. "Sometimes I wish he would relax more at the plate."

For his part, McGwire seeks to ease the pressure on himself by saying that so much goes into breaking the record — from staying healthy to getting pitchers out to walk you — that it may be beyond the hitter himself. "A real accomplishment is hitting 50 homers in a season," he said. "Only 16 players have ever done that."

Yes, yes, of course, but Mark, if you did hit a 62nd homer this season? And so the questions go.

"What would you do with the ball?" he was asked.

"Give it to the Hall of Fame," he said.

"And what would you pay for it?"

"In dollars? Nothing. But I would give bats, balls, a cap, a jockstrap, some underwear — the usual." And a smile appeared within his red mustache and goatee.

As he spoke, one observed the poetic forearms of the man, forearms that would have made Popeye envious, and would have intrigued Olive Oyl.

"Genetics," he said. "My father is a big man. He was a boxer."

As for hitting home runs, he said that no one really tries to hit homers. "You see the ball, you try to center it on the bat — and you run around the bases," he said.

Sounds easy. Why more batters don't do it, then, is a mystery.

After Sosa took batting practice before Tuesday night's game, he looked to the Cardinal side of the field, and saw the team doing stretching exercises. He made a beeline for McGwire, who was twisting on the ground. A phalanx of reporters and cameramen followed Sosa.

"Get away! Get away!" McGwire shouted, laughing.

Then he got up, and he and Sosa hugged. And then they parted. It seemed that neither had time to whisper any kind of sweet nothing in the other's ear.

Watching nearby was Dan Radison, the Cubs' first-base coach, who has had the best opportunity to eavesdrop on Sosa and McGwire.

"I couldn't quite catch what they were saying," he said. "It can get noisy in the ball park."



Sammy Sosa of the Cubs embracing Mark McGwire of the Cardinals.

Browns Bidders Make Pitches

The Associated Press
ATLANTA — Seven potential ownership groups for the expansion Cleveland Browns began making their presentations before National Football League owners Wednesday, with the first candidate saying he believed his group met all the requirements "subject to price."

Bert Wolstein, 71, a suburban Cleveland real estate developer whose net worth is estimated at \$200 million to \$300 million, made a 30-minute sales pitch. He was joined by businessman Alan Spitzer, who would be a minority owner; former Carolina Panthers general manager Mike McCormack, who would be GM, and Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown, who would be a consultant with the team.

The owners were meeting at a motel near the Atlanta airport.

The owner of the team, which begins play next season, will likely be chosen in September.

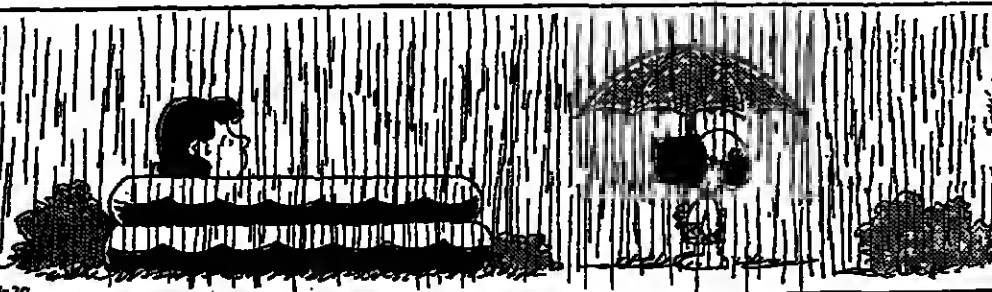
Jeremy Jacobs, owner of the Boston Bruins of the National Hockey League, was the latest addition to the potential ownership groups.

The other known candidates are businessman/banker Alfred Lerer; Cleveland Indians owner Richard Jacobs (no relation to Jeremy Jacobs); New York real estate developer Howard Milstein; Cleveland-area toy retailer Thomas Murdough; and Cleveland-area lawyer Larry Dolan and his brother Charles Dolan, chairman of Cablevision Systems.

DENNIS THE MENACE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



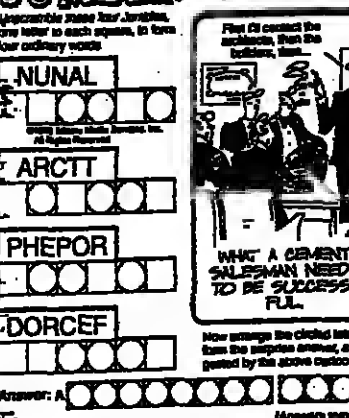
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ART BUCHWALD

Lincoln's Other Speech

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Massachusetts — There were two Gettysburg addresses. Here's the one Lincoln never delivered.

Four score and seven grand juries ago Ken Starr brought forth on this country a special prosecution dedicated to the proposition that all presidential sexual activity had to be accounted for either by tapping the participants or testing by DNA.



"We are now engaged in a great political war in which the private lives of our public figures are being exposed to the point that we are all being asked to lie for our country."

"I take full responsibility in denying that I had a sexual affair in the Black Dog Café with a Yankee intern in the Massachusetts Infantry Division."

"It was a mistake, and I only did it to protect the nation and the men and women who gave their lives at Gettysburg."

"The world will little notice nor long remember what we say here — except for the New York Post, New York Daily News, National Enquirer, 'Hard Copy,' 'Gerald Rivera,' 'Bob Novak,' 'Jim Carville,' 'Meet the Press,' 'Sam Donaldson,' 'Barbara Walters,' 'Diane Sawyer,' 'Alan Dershowitz,' 'George Stephanopoulos' and 'Larry King.'"

"But I can never forget what the FBI said we did here."

"It is for us, the living, to dedicate ourselves to eliminating consensual sex from the White House and forget my hugging of interns on the White House lawn. It is for no other reason than it could lead to high crimes and misdemeanors that might be witnessed by the Secret Service, who up until now have had the full measure of my devotion."

"This nation, under God, shall have a new birth of morals, and hanky panky of the people, and hanky panky for the people shall disappear from the face of the earth — or at least from the White House for the rest of my term of office."

Remarks on Diana Spark Outrage

Agence France-Press

LONDON — Two Sunday school teachers have created a stir by telling their pupils that Diana, Princess of Wales, had "gone to hell" after her death nearly a year ago.

Jeffrey Jones and Chris Mansfield told their class of 20 children aged from 5 to 13 in Walsall, West Midlands, that the princess had led an "immoral lifestyle," had not repented of her sins before dying in a car accident last Aug. 31 in Paris, and thus could not have gone to heaven.

Parents and religious figures were immediately up in arms. "I was absolutely horrified. How could they tell Darryl that the woman he thought was a star in heaven was actually in Hell," said the mother of a child who went home in tears.

The Archdeacon of Aston, the Venerable John Barton, branded the preaching "barmy and perverted theology."

But the two teachers stuck to their views, saying they were only teaching the Bible.

Castaneda's Legacy: As Mysterious as the Man

By Peter Applebome
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Once he began publishing his best-selling accounts of his purported adventures with a Mexican shaman 30 years ago, Carlos Castaneda's life and work played out in a wisp of sly illusion and artful deceit.

Now, four months after he died and two months after the death was made public, a probate court in Los Angeles is sifting through competing claims on the estate of the author whose works helped define the 1960s and usher in the New Age movement.

His followers say he left the Earth with the same elegant, willful mystery that characterized his life. The man he used to call his son says Castaneda died while a virtual prisoner of cultlike followers who controlled his last days and his estate.

Given that Castaneda's literary credibility, marital history, place of birth, circumstances of death and almost everything else about his life are in dispute, the competing claims — including questions about the authenticity of his will and his competence to sign it — are not surprising. But they are providing a nasty coda to the life of a man whose books, which sold 8 million copies in 17 languages, are viewed as fact, metaphor or hoax.

Admirers say the areas of dispute, most famously whether the purported shaman and *brujos* (witches) Don Juan Matus ever existed, are peripheral to the real issues Castaneda explored in his books.

"Carlos knew exactly what was true and what was not true," said Angela Panaro, of Cleargreen Inc., the group that marketed Castaneda's teachings and seminars near the end of his life. "But the thing that's missing when people talk about Carlos is not whether Don Juan lived or not, or who lived in that house. It's about becoming a voyager of awareness, about the 600 locations in the luminous egg of man where the assemblage point can shift, about the

process of depersonalization he taught."

The luminous egg, assemblage point and processes of depersonalization are all part of the practice of Tensegrity, a blend of meditation and movement exercises that Castaneda taught in his final years as a way for people to break through the limitations of ordinary consciousness. Skeptics say they sum up a career characterized, in the end, by literate New Age mumbo jumbo and artful deception.

Even Margaret Runyan Castaneda, who had been married to him, while admiring Castaneda and his work, says she doubts Don Juan ever existed and thinks his name came from Mateos, the bubbly Portuguese wine the couple used to drink.

Carlos Castaneda rocketed from obscure anthropology graduate student at the University of California at Los Angeles to instant, if elusive, celebrity in 1968 with the publication of "The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge," a vivid account of the spiritual and pharmacological adventures he had with a white-haired Yaqui Indian *magical* or shaman, Don Juan Matus. He said he met Don Juan at a Greyhound bus station in Nogales, Arizona, in the summer of 1960 when Castaneda was doing research on medicinal plants used by Indians of the Southwest.

In that book, its sequel, "A Separate Reality," and eight others, he described his apprenticeship to Don Juan and a spiritual journey in which he saw giant insects, learned to fly and grew a beak as part of a process of breaking the hold of ordinary perception.

Admirers saw his work as a gripping spiritual quest in the tradition of Aldous Huxley's "Doors of Perception." "Skeptics wondered how much was true."

But despite Castaneda's obsessive pursuit of total anonymity — he refused to be photographed or tape recorded and almost never gave interviews — he won international fame, and the books continued to sell well after his vogue passed.



A portrait of Carlos Castaneda drawn by Richard Oden in 1972, which later was partially erased by the teacher and writer.

In recent years, he surfaced with a new vision, the teaching of Tensegrity, which is described on the Cleargreen Web site as "the modernized version of some movements called magical passes developed by Indian shamans who lived in Mexico in times prior to the Spanish conquest." He even made public appearances and spoke at seminars promoting the work.

Unknown to customers who turned out for the seminars — which cost \$600 and more — Castaneda was dying of cancer while describing his route to vibrant good health.

Indeed, although only his inner circle knew about it for two months, he died on April 27 at his home in Westwood, a well-to-do section of Los Angeles, where he lived for many years with some of the self-described witches, stalkers, dream-

ers and spiritual seekers who shared his work.

At a brief hearing in probate court in Los Angeles last week, the man whom Castaneda for many years called his son challenged the will Castaneda apparently signed four days before his death. The judge set a hearing date of Oct. 15 for the case.

C.J. Castaneda, also known as Adrian Vashon — whose birth certificate cites Carlos Castaneda as his father, although another man was actually his father — says Cleargreen became a cultlike group that came to control Castaneda's life.

"Those people latched onto him, stuck their claws in him and rode him for all he was worth," said C.J. Castaneda, who operates two small coffee shops in suburban Atlanta and calls himself a powerful *brujito*. "I don't believe the will has

my father's signature, and I don't believe he was competent to sign it three days before he died."

Deborah Drooz, Carlos Castaneda's lawyer and executor of his estate, said she witnessed the signing with another lawyer and a notary public. She said that Castaneda was completely lucid when he signed the will and that C.J. Castaneda had no claims. She denied that Carlos Castaneda's followers were anything akin to a cult and said C.J. Castaneda's claim did not constitute a serious legal challenge.

"No one, none, of Dr. Castaneda's followers participated in the writing of the will," she said. "And one thing that was very clear for years was that Dr. Castaneda had not had a relationship with C.J. Castaneda, or Adrian Vashon, for years, and he was very clear he should not benefit from Dr. Castaneda's death."

Invariably described as an impeccable person who kept his affairs in perfect order, Castaneda apparently signed the will on April 23, and then died at 3 A.M. on April 27 of what his death certificate said was metabolic encephalopathy, a neurological breakdown that followed two weeks of liver failure and 10 months of cancer. The signature is partly obscured, and C.J. Castaneda and his mother, Margaret Castaneda, say it does not look like Castaneda's signature.

He was cremated within hours of his death. His death was kept secret for more than two months until word leaked out and was confirmed by his representatives, who said the death was kept quiet in keeping with Castaneda's lifelong pursuit of privacy.

His will cited assets worth about \$1 million, a modest figure for an author who sold so well and apparently lived simply. All his assets were given to the Eagle's Trust, set up at the same time as the will. It is not clear how much in additional assets had already been placed in the trust, but a London newspaper recently estimated his estate at \$20 million.

PEOPLE



THE PACK IS BACK — The cast for "The Rat Pack," a television movie depicting the high-living clique that included Joey Bishop, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Peter Lawford and Frank Sinatra, from left: Bobby Slayton, Joe Mantegna, Don Cheadle, Angus Macfadyen and Ray Liotta.

IT must be some sort of plot. Is it possible that David Duchovny, star of television's "The X-Files," doesn't actually like the show? In an interview published on the BBC entertainment Web site, Duchovny said his initial impression was that the hit show was "silly." "I assumed there was no way it would last," he said. He added that he believed his character, Fox Mulder, is "clearly insane." "I'd love to be off the TV show," he was quoted as saying, "but because of my greed I have to give them another two years." Duchovny's manager, Melanie Greene, did not return several calls from The New York Times seeking comment.

Leonardo da Vinci's legend hardly needs burnishing, but a new book may add yet another credit to his résumé. "Leonardo da Vinci: The Origins of a Genius," by David Alan Brown, asserts that the young artist worked on Andrea del Verrocchio's "Tobias and the Angel," now at the National Gallery in London. He says he has strong ev-

idence of Leonardo's brush strokes on the figure of Tobias and on a dog and a fish. Brown, curator of Italian Renaissance painting at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, says "Tobias" would effectively be Leonardo's first painting. The book is to be published next month by Yale University Press.

A potted plant will be replaced by a 29,000-pound boulder at the grave of Erna Bombbeck. The rock, which is 6 feet high and about 5 feet tall, was taken from the property of a neighbor in Arizona and delivered by truck to the Woodlawn Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio, the humor columnist's hometown. Bombbeck's husband, Bill, said he "wanted a piece of Phoenix" at his wife's grave to commemorate the 25 years they spent together in Arizona. Bombbeck died in 1996 after a kidney transplant. She was 69.

Farrah Fawcett's former boyfriend has been convicted of beating the actress during a fight in which he slammed her

head to the ground and choked her. A jury in Santa Monica, California, found James Orr guilty on one count of misdemeanor battery. The writer, director and producer was acquitted of a second battery charge. He faces up to a year in jail at his sentencing in October, but his lawyer said he planned to appeal. Orr was charged with beating the actress in his driveway Jan. 28 after an argument at a restaurant. Fawcett admitted smashing his windows with a baseball bat and attacking him with a bar stool.

Prince Bernhard, the father of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, has undergone successful surgery to repair a partially detached retina in his left eye. The surgery was performed Tuesday at a hospital in Utrecht. Bernhard, 87, returned home the same day. Dutch media reported that the prince had suffered vision problems while on vacation and returned to the Netherlands for the surgery.

Mother Maybelle Carter's guitar is

headed to the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville. "In many ways, it's the guitar that defined country music," said Charles Wolfe, a professor at Middle Tennessee State University who studies the Carter family. Maybelle Carter, who died in 1978, bought the Gibson in 1928 for \$500. By using such a high-quality instrument, she set a new standard, Wolfe said.

Mykelti Williamson, who played Tom Hanks's pal Bubba in "Forest Gump," is on trial for attempted manslaughter for allegedly attacking a friend of his former wife. Williamson, 41, is accused of slashing Leroy Edwards with a knife on Jan. 5. On the first day of testimony, Williamson's former wife, Cheryl Chisholm, testified that the actor had become angry trying to make arrangements with her to pick up their daughter. The actor left several threatening phone messages, Chisholm said. When she didn't respond to the messages, Williamson allegedly went to her home and attacked Edwards.



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